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BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Layoffs hit Project Open Hand

by Matthew S. Bajko

After 16 years of serving meals with love, Project Open Hand is learning it takes some tough self love as well to feed 8,000 people annually.

In order to meet increasing demand for its services, and a projected budget deficit of more than $1 million in its 2002-2003 fiscal year, the agency has slashed its administrative costs and laid off several employees.



Rick Gerharter

Tom Nolan

"It is a bumpy, scary time for sure," said Colleen Paul, the agency's lead case worker.

Executive Director Tom Nolan announced to his staff his decision to make the administrative cuts Friday, April 26. In addition to the layoffs, the agency's remaining employees will not receive expected pay raises this year, some staff have had their hours cut back, and top administrators are taking pay cuts.

"There is an enormous sadness here about the people who left. I know it is hard here for everybody not to get a raise," said Nolan, who is taking a 10 percent pay cut to his $115,000-a-year salary. "I hate all of this because I work with great people who work really hard. None of whom are overpaid for what they do."

In addition to his salary cut, Nolan instituted a 5 percent salary reduction for other top managers. He eliminated or reduced key administrative positions and redistributed their responsibilities to other departments. The positions of chief financial officer, director of communications, director of operations, and information system manager were all eliminated.

He rescinded the 4 percent cost of living adjustment all employees were scheduled to receive in July, canceled the annual staff appreciation party and cut his assistant's hours by 50 percent.

"I may do more consolidating of positions as people move on. I have another month to really put it all together," Nolan said.

The changes, effective immediately, will not impact the agency's client services. The agency provides meals to people living with symptomatic HIV/AIDS, homebound people living with critical illnesses, and low-income seniors in both San Francisco and Alameda counties. There are no waiting lists and its services are free of

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Rick Gerharter

Twenty years of helping others

Honored at the Dolores Street Community Services 20th anniversary reception April 25 were (holding awards) Bill Hershon, Chris Harris, and Beth Abrams. Each has contributed to community betterment by helping immigrants and people living with AIDS. Also pictured is board chair Daniel Ostrow, far left, and DSCS Executive Director Bob Nelson, far right. The event at Galleria de la Raza also included recognition of the winners of the first "Underexposed Photography Awards," a competition among local photographers from the Mission District. DSCS provides shelter and AIDS housing services to clients in the Mission and Castro neighborhoods.

Gays demand inclusion in the Catholic Church's process for solving child abuse crisis

by Joe Dignan

For some gays and lesbians in San Francisco, going to "church" on a Sunday has come to mean spending the afternoon dancing at the Endup or going to a circuit-party-like "Mass" at the 1015 Folsom nightclub. Because the Catholic Church has turned its back on them, many gays and lesbians who grew up Catholic have been forced to examine their childhood faith, have rejected Catholicism as it spurned them, and have found little to fill the spiritual void. Some have turned to other religions, other more inclusive denominations and even Harry Hay's concoction of paganism and free love, which he calls Radical Faerieism, where gay men delight in the pleasures of the earth and of each other in a self-affirming embrace.

But for the 800 registered parishioners of Most Holy Redeemer, a thriving Catholic Church in the Castro where 75 to 80 percent of the congregation is gay, faith requires reconciling church doctrines that say that their sex lives are a cardinal sin with what many of them call the resonance and beauty of the church's teachings and the sacraments with which many of them grew up.

At no time in recent memory has this faith been so tested as by the waves of disclosures about sexual abuse of minors, cover-ups and attempts by the church's hierarchy to place blame for the scandals on gays.

Parishioners say that nothing coming from the scandals is more painful than hearing church officials equate homosexuality with a predilection to child abuse. From the pulpit of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York on April 21, Monsignor Eugene Clark, the rector, said, "The tendency to homosexuality is a disorder, not a sin, but the practice of homosexuality is truly sinful." Echoing the sentiments of many conservative Catholics, Clark linked homosexuality, according to a *New York Daily News* report, with the sex abuse scandals [see story above].

Like most psychologists, Cheryl Deaner, a family therapist and founder of San Francisco's Our Families Coalition, a support group for gay parents, agrees that there is no connection between homosexuality and predatory sexual practices. She said that "Child sexual abuse is a psychiatric problem. It has nothing to do with whether one is gay or straight."

In the wake of the spectacular failure of the church's top-down management structure in the cover-ups around the scandals, gay San Francisco Catholics say they want more to do with the way the church deals with the problems and sets a course for its future.

"One of the most important things is that we want to be catalysts for change and accountability," said Paul Ziller, co-chair of Dignity-SF, an organization of LGBT Catholics.

Referring to the recent meetings in the Vatican between the American cardinals and the pope, Ziller said, "In the discussions that went on this week, it was once again the all male, mostly white community that was making these decisions. Where are the lay people? Where are the women?"

Other gay Catholics, like Most Holy Redeemer parishioner Scott Campbell, take a similar stance. "We're here. Deal with us," he said.

Parishioner Rob Hopke believes that, lo-

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Gays mass at NY's St. Patrick's Cathedral

by Mike Salinas

One week after a high ranking Catholic official delivered a blistering attack on gays from the pulpit of St. Patrick's Cathedral, more than 100 gays and lesbians braved a cold morning rain Sunday, April 28 to wave placards, chant slogans, and hold a press conference across the street from the site. Despite some early concerns that the steady rainfall would keep people away, the protesters persevered for more than two hours, most of them holding signs with one hand and umbrellas with the other.

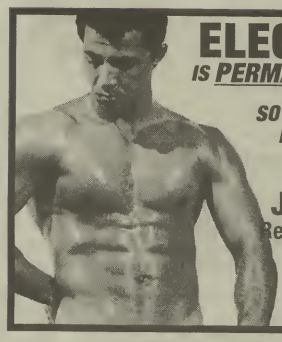
The demonstration was generated by a controversial homily that Monsignor Eugene Clark delivered at St. Patrick's April 21, in which he blamed homosexuality for priests' sexual abuse of children. The tabloid *New York Daily News* reported on his remarks in a front-page story the following Monday, with three-inch high letters blaring the headline "Priest Blasts Gays" from newsstands across the tri-state area. Within hours, outraged e-mails were flying throughout the gay community, quickly snowballing into the kind of action not seen since the heyday of the AIDS action group ACT UP. On Tuesday, word went out that an emergency town hall meeting would be held at the New York Lesbian and Gay Community Center to discuss the attack.

The next night an overflow crowd of gays, lesbians, and their supporters packed the center, including New York state Senator Tom Duane and City Council members Christine Quinn and Margarita Lopez, rainbow flag designer Gilbert Baker, and longtime gay activist and writer Jim Fouratt. So many attended the meeting, more than 250 in all, organizers had to move it to a larger room at the last minute to accommodate the throng.

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Rolling out the welcome mat



Rick Gerharter

Organizational representatives grin and show it – oversized checks representing gifts from the Wells Fargo Foundation at the grand opening of the new Wells Fargo Bank branch at 557 Castro Street on April 20. A total of $60,000 was distributed to the LGBT Community Center Project ($10,000), Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center ($5,000), the Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation ($20,000), the San Francisco Conservatory of Music ($5,000), the Positive Resource Center ($5,000), and New Leaf Services for the Community ($15,000).

Annual bike ride nears, without any squabbles

by Matthew S. Bajko

Lost among the headlines of dueling AIDS bike-a-thons and suing cyclers is one event where fundraising and bicycling still combine for a smooth, enjoyable ride.

Local cyclers will take part next Saturday, May 11 in the Ron Wilmot Bike Ride for Project Inform. And this year's event could very well benefit from the brouhaha circling around other such rides.

"We certainly encourage and welcome new participants every year. And 2002 is no exception. So if there are any LifeCycle riders or California AIDS riders who don't feel they can commit to a week on the road, they are certainly welcome to come on board with the Ron Wilmot Bike Ride," said Project Inform development associate Julie Doherty. "We always try to grow and expand every year."

Even with the new AIDS/LifeCycle ride departing two days after her event, Doherty said she is not worried.

"We fully support LifeCycle. Anyone sitting on a bike and fundraising for AIDS is doing good work," she said.

Now in its eighth year, the Ron Wilmot Bike Ride is a one-day, seven-mile ride through Golden Gate Park. While it may not be as grueling of a ride for enthusiasts, the event does offer many aspects that cyclers say are lacking in other rides.

"I think we like it because we really feel Project Inform is a very effective ASO, as opposed to say certain other AIDS organizations where there is a lot of criticism of how well they serve their clients, and there isn't a lot of inflated salaries," said Larry Smyle, a former board member of Positive Pedalers and head of a team of riders from Kaiser Permanente.

The bike ride is an important fundraiser for Project Inform, and the proceeds ensure the agency can continue to provide, free of charge, the most up-to-date treatment information to anyone who inquires.

"It started as a small grassroots event and really has become one of our most loved and most important annual events," said Doherty. "We rely on the support we get on May 11 to meet our budget and to continue our programs."

Since the bike ride is organized by volunteers and the agency's staff, the event returns 95 percent of the money raised by riders directly for Project Inform's HIV treatment education and advocacy services for people with HIV/AIDS. The ride has raised more than $400,000 for the agency's programs; last year riders raised over $70,000.

"We are shooting to break $70,000 and we are hoping we can make it," said Doherty. "I am very positive about it, but we won't know until ride day."

The bike ride is named after Wilmot – an avid cyclist who turned to Project Inform for treatment information to better manage his health after learning he was HIV-positive. To thank the agency, Wilmot started the bike ride.

In just over two years, his efforts alone raised more than $100,000 for HIV/AIDS research. After Wilmot's death in 1997, Project Inform carried on with the fundraiser he pioneered both for the good it produces and as a tribute to Wilmot's inspirational courage and leadership.

"Ron choose to support Project Inform so that he and those who came after him could live a full and healthy life," said Ellen LaPointe, the agency's executive director who organized a 14-member team dubbed "Chick Posse" to participate in this year's ride. "This bike ride is a fun, invigorating way to raise awareness of the essential work of Project Inform."

And it doesn't come with the sponsorship trappings or glitzy promotional aspects of the PallottaTeamworks' rides which have sparked complaints from riders and questions from benefiting AIDS agencies. Instead, its focus remains on helping a worthy cause and enjoying a bike ride.

"We don't get a ton of big sponsorships for this event. It really happens word of mouth from person to person," said Doherty. "One thing that really sets this event over the top is this ride happens one rider at a time. It really is the difference between 10 riders and 20 riders."

Already 74 people are signed up for the event, and Doherty is hoping to break the 100 mark. Several companies are sponsoring teams this year, including Kaiser Permanente, local retailer wOrldware and Morrison and Foerster, the law firm that helped defend the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center and San Francisco AIDS Foundation against PallottaTeamworks.

"It's a very community-based event and a very worthwhile event," said Morrison and Foerster associate Amy Lovell, who participated in the ride last year and will join six of her colleagues on this year's company team. "I liked it because families could participate, especially kids because it is short enough."

Interested cyclers can sign up now until the day of the event. To register, call (415) 558-8669 ext. 223 or online at www.projectinform.org. ▼

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AEF revises grant program

by Matthew S. Bajko

With more people living longer with HIV and AIDS, the AIDS Emergency Fund is finding its services are needed now more than ever before.

Yet, just as it sees more people turning to it for help, the agency is finding it can no longer do business as usual. The downturn in the economy combined with the public's misperceptions about advances in HIV treatment is forcing the fund to change its policies and fundraise even harder.

"Many of our former clients stop us on the street and tell us they so appreciated their support when they needed it and things have now turned around for them," said Ralph Petersen, chair of the agency's board of directors. "At the same time, we are concerned people may overlook the fact that recent advances in HIV and AIDS treatment have not solved the emergency for so many of our clients.

"For clients to keep coming back to us because they are in an emergency situation indicates the epidemic is by no means over."

This year, as it celebrates two decades of helping people who are disabled due to the virus, the agency is redefining what it means to have disabling HIV or AIDS.

In addition, to brace itself for expected drops in government funding and charitable contributions this year, the fund's directors have also announced a $200 reduction in the amount granted to returning clients, many of whom have turned to the fund multiple times. Instead of receiving $600, returning clients will now only be eligible for $400 per year. New clients will still be eligible to receive $600 grants.

"We want to continue to be around for our clients for as long as they need us," said Petersen. "The number of grantees is increasing each year. Not only new grantees but the number of returning grantees will increase. At the same time, it appears we are operating in a fundraising environment that is not favorable to us."

Last week, the fund notified all of its collaborative sites and mailed all its clients a letter explaining the changes, which went into effect May 1. As part of the changes, the fund is requiring all of its clients to submit a new letter of diagnosis to be completed by a licensed physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner.

The letter must certify that the client's current diagnosis is either "disabling HIV" or "disabling AIDS." The criteria for determining such a diagnosis is based upon the current definitions used in the Standard Letter of Diagnosis issued by the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

AEF decided to update its policy regarding diagnosis certification to better reflect today's realities of the disease. With HIV/AIDS no longer viewed as a death sentence, it instead is now seen as more of a manageable chronic illness.

"Basically, the diagnosis letter requires clients to now be disabled. It is a recognition that HIV or AIDS no longer means permanent disability," said Petersen. "It also reflects the fact we want to continue to ensure our money goes to those clients who are most in need. And those would be clients who are disabled and are unable to work and cannot support themselves independently as they otherwise would."

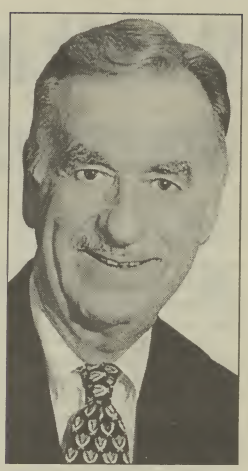
As more people are able to live with HIV/AIDS, more people are taxing the fund's revenues. According to the fund, as clients with HIV and AIDS live longer, and often on fixed incomes which do not keep pace with local costs of living, it anticipates that the numbers of both new and returning clients will continue to climb. Over the last few years, the fund's client list grew by 5 percent per year.

Last year, the fund gave out close to 3,000 grants totaling nearly $1.8 million. According to the fund, 70 percent of grants helped pay for clients' housing costs, 20 percent paid for utilities and 10 percent went toward medicine or healthcare costs.

"We don't at all look at it as a welfare check. We are still in the business of making emergency grants to people on very limited incomes," said Petersen. "We make the difference between someone being evicted or making a co-payment for their medical bills."

Even with the changes the agency has now put in place, it is uncertain if it will have any impact on the number of people receiving grants from the fund. Many of its clients will probably still meet the new criteria for having disabling HIV or AIDS.

"It is entirely possible there won't be any change in our population. But we need to satisfy our supporters at our grant making sources as well as ourselves that we are making grants to people who need it the most," said Petersen. "It is possible our client population won't change because of this. We don't know."



AEF's B.J. Stiles

At the same time the client rolls expand, the amount of funding the agency receives is in jeopardy. While the fund was able to meet its financial targets for 2001, its ability to do so in the future is in question.

The fund's directors point to the downturn in the Bay Area economy, a shrinkage in corporate and individual charitable giving and continuing uncertainty about government funding for AIDS programs as the reasons why they are making the changes.

"All provide the basis for the AIDS Emergency Fund board's belief that utmost fiscal caution is required at this time. We need to be prudent in setting grant levels now so that we will be able to continue making emergency grants in the future," states the agency's letter.

It is too early to tell what the overall impact of the changes will be on the agency's clients. Although it is only $200, the fund's directors know it can make a big difference in their client's lives.

"It's a tough economy and I am sure there will be clients who are seriously unhappy that they are not able to get the amount they got last year," said B.J. Stiles, AEF's interim executive director. "Instead of our grant theoretically covering a full month's rent then it would cover three weeks and a day or so. It leaves people facing an even tougher problem of keeping adequate, semi-decent housing."

As the agency celebrates its 20th anniversary year with several major fundraisers, it hopes the public and past donors will step up to help the fund increase its grant amounts in the future.

"While we are being extremely conservative this year, we are also optimistic about going forward that we will be able to increase our grants in future years," said Petersen.

For more information about the fund or to make a contribution, call (415) 558-6985. ▼

AIDS denialist in hospital w/AIDS condition

by Cynthia Laird

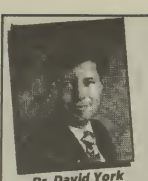
ACT UP/San Francisco frontman David Pasquarelli was reportedly rushed to a local hospital last week where he was diagnosed with cryptococcal meningitis, an AIDS-related condition, according to an e-mail sent by ACT UP/SF members.

Pasquarelli, who faces numerous charges of threatening and harassing public health workers, members of the media (including the *Bay Area Reporter*), and others, has maintained for the last several years that "AIDS is over." Pasquarelli spent 72 days in jail following his arrest last November on the harassment charges. He has pleaded not guilty to the charges and was released on bail earlier this year pending trial.

In a lengthy e-mail sent by Pasquarelli before his recent hospitalization, he blamed his stay in jail for his deteriorating health.

In the April 26 e-mail sent by ACT UP/San Francisco, members wrote that Pasquarelli was taken to the emergency room on April 22 after suffering "excruciating painful headaches that would not respond to pain relievers." He remained hospitalized as of Tuesday, April 30, according to an unidentified woman who answered the phone at ACT UP/SF's Market Street office.

According to the HIV InSite Web site, cryptococcosis is the cause of the most common life-threatening meningitis in AIDS. Early in the epidemic, approximately 5 to 8 percent of patients with AIDS developed cryptococcal infection. ▼



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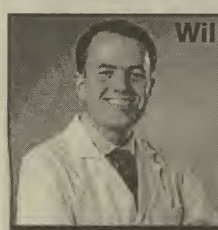
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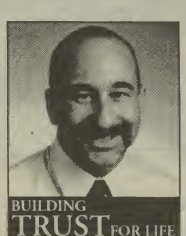
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DAM! lesbian artists invade San Francisco

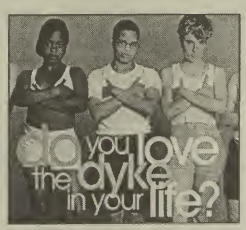
by Katie Zak Szymanski

New Yorkers are used to billboards, but no one was prepared for the work of Dyke Action Machine! when its eye-catching commentary appeared on the streets a decade ago.

Since its earliest poster campaigns, the painter/photographer duo of Carrie Moyer and Sue Schaffner has provoked reactions from the mainstream and queer communities alike: from the "Lesbian Americans: Don't Sell Out" signs that played off patriotic marketing and portrayed the butch lesbian as the true embodiment of American spirit to the controversial ads that challenged gay marriage and asked, "Is it worth being boring for a blender" to the Calvin Klein/Marky Mark parody that slammed the worship of homogenous white gym bodies.

DAM!'s work has appeared throughout Manhattan with the help of the Mafia-controlled wheat paste operation, but it has also been shown around the world. And in recognizing the group's far-reaching influence, the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts will present "Straight to Hell: 10 Years of Dyke Action Machine" beginning this Saturday, May 4.

"It's so exciting to be able to do this somewhere else in the U.S. and not have to explain all the cultural references," Moyer told the *Bay Area Reporter*.



DAM!'s *Do You Love the Dyke In Your Life?*

Both Moyer, 41, and Schaffner, 37, will arrive in San Francisco this weekend for the opening of the exhibit. The show will feature DAM! posters as well as interactive installations like public toilet kiosks representing "Gynadome," an imaginary post-technology, lesbian planet; videos of DAM! answering frequently asked questions about lesbians from people on the street; and an interactive phone line (originally advertised on widely distributed matchbooks) where callers can listen to Valerie Solanas's "S.C.U.M. Manifesto."

"There will be lots of things for people to do," said Moyer.

Moyer and Schaffner began as artists for the lesbian working group of Queer Nation, and kept at it after the group dissolved. Their posters are meant to be subversive advertising, their themes are always politically left of center of whatever is topical, and their depictions are "always going for the laugh," according to Moyer. "DAM! always strives to be funny."

The women are collaborators and "partners in crime," said Moyer. "It's very strange. When we're off a project we hardly see each other. But we've been together almost 24/7 for the last four months getting ready for the show."

San Franciscans will have a few opportunities to meet the artists and explore an historical perspective of lefty lesbian imagery in relation to mainstream culture.

A free public discussion presented in collaboration with the San Francisco LGBT Community Center and the Queer Cultural Center will take place at the center, 1800 Market Street, on Saturday, May 4 at 11 a.m.

An opening night party will take place from 8-11 p.m. on May 4 in the grand lobby of Yerba Buena; for $10 in advance, $12 at the door (free to members), guests can enjoy entertainment, visual art previews, film/video screenings, and a few promised surprises. The show runs through July 14. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts is located at 701 Mission, at 3rd Street, accessible by BART and Muni.

For more information, visit www.yerbabuenaarts.org and www.dykeactionmachine.com. ▼

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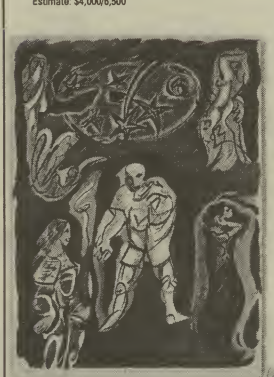
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LGBT senior housing project receives grant

by Matthew S. Bajko

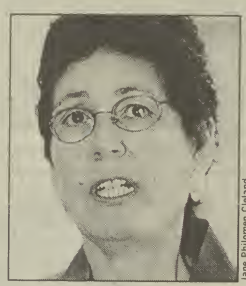
With a major grant from the state, the project to build senior housing for the city's aging gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender population moved one step closer this week to realizing that dream.

The project's boosters have also selected a "dream site" for the building and are already lobbying City Hall about their plans. Named Rainbow Adult Community Housing, the project would be Northern California's first mixed income, multicultural, nonprofit GLBT senior retirement community.

"Today, we are forming a community retirement account," said Jim Mitulski, the project's executive director, after announcing the grant to the public during a ceremony on Tuesday, April 30. "If you want to move to Palm Springs, the East Bay or somewhere south, fine. We will miss you. But you don't have to go there unless you want to. You will have a home here."

Governor Gray Davis directed the $250,000 grant from the state's General Fund toward the housing project at the request of Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco). It is the largest single grant RACH has received to date.

The project recently opened its own office in the Flood Building on Market Street, adjacent to the Horizons Foundation. The state funds will be used by the project for staffing needs, operational costs, and a community awareness campaign for GLBT elder issues.



Jane Philomen Cleland

Marcy Adelman

"Now it really feels like this time it can happen," said the project's board chair Marcy Adelman, who started advocating for the project in the early 1980s. "We have a wave of baby boomers coming of age who will need services that are GLBT sensitive and aimed at GLBT seniors."

The board has decided the ideal location for the project is an undeveloped lot in Hayes Valley along Octavia Boulevard. A short distance from the new LGBT Community Center, the site is bounded by Oak, Fell, Laguna and Octavia streets and is currently owned by Caltrans.

The project has also joined forces with Citizens Housing, a nonprofit organization enlisted to be RACH's development partner. The two organizations will use the grant from the state to work on a feasibility study for a four-story, 220-unit building of mixed income housing on the site.

In the fall, Caltrans will use the land as a staging area when work begins on tearing down the Central Freeway. The first phase in constructing a new Octavia Boulevard is expected to last one year, at which time the land will be transferred to the city's Redevelopment Agency.

Once the land is in the city's hands, a request for proposals will be sent out. While it will be at least three years before construction could begin, the senior housing boosters are wasting no time in lobbying city leaders to select their project for the site.

"What we are doing in the interim is letting everyone in city government know that we are interested in this property," Mitulski said.

The project's board is working closely with the Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association to garner support early on from residents in the area.

"We want to keep Hayes Valley a walking neighborhood for seniors and families," said Adelman.

For more information on the Rainbow Housing project, visit its Web site at www.sfrach.org. ▼

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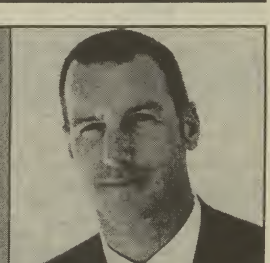
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Sins of the bishops

Last week's meeting in the Vatican between U.S. cardinals and the pope was pathetic. The cardinals stopped short of issuing a "one strike" policy concerning sexually abusive priests, and did not address the participation of the laity in this latest crisis to rock the Catholic Church. Several church leaders who attended the emergency meeting also used the occasion once again to attempt to blame gays for the crisis, despite the lack of evidence that pedophilia is related to homosexuality. In fact, research has found that the majority of pedophiles are heterosexual.

It seems that for every step forward, leaders of the Catholic Church take 10 steps backward.

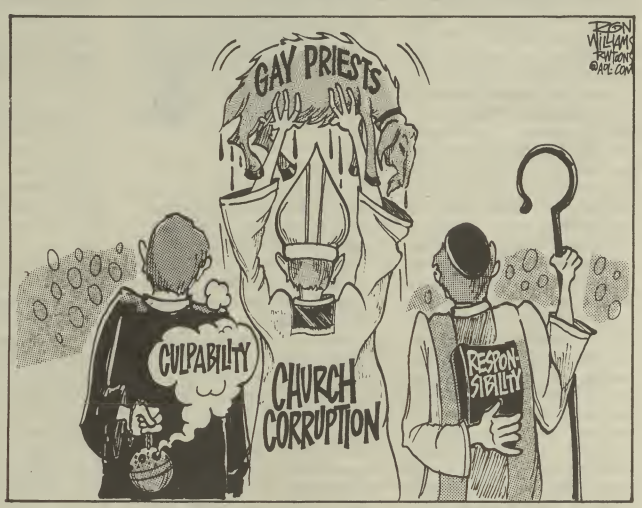
Gay Catholics – like many heterosexual Catholics – want to be involved in helping the church through this difficult period. Yet they are stymied because the church hierarchy is inherently homophobic. The vast majority of priests – gay and straight – have been tarnished by the sexual abuse scandal, and church leaders continue to exacerbate the crisis by evading personal culpability or responsibility in systematically protecting offending clergy.

The recent remarks by a priest in New York City led to more than 100 gays protesting in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral last Sunday, yet the event drew scant media attention. The mainstream press has done a disservice to the public by not aggressively questioning church leaders on their erroneous statements that gay priests are to blame. The National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association last week issued a statement critical of news reports in mainstream publications that cast gay men as emotionally disturbed, link the gay community with pedophilia, and fail to include other credible sources with opposing views.

The comments by bishops concerning gays in the church have gone largely unchallenged. Bishop Wilton Gregory, for example, has stated that gay men are not "psychologically, emotionally, spiritually, intellectually" fit to be priests. He was not challenged on that statement.

The church cannot begin to address seriously the sexual abuse scandal by taking part in a witch-hunt against gays, while leaders such as New York Cardinal Edward Egan and Boston Cardinal Bernard Law continue to hide, stonewall parishioners, and, in the case of Law, actually blame a victim for his own alleged abuse.

As we stated a few weeks ago, sexual abuse is a crime not an orientation – so far, the Catholic Church as an institution has been slow to see the difference. ▼



Why 'queer' still hurts

by Marc Paige

It was an honor to recently address the eighth annual Rhode Island Symposium on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Issues, despite the forum's title. Over the years, I have grown to understand that we are a highly diverse community of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and other sexual minority people, encompassing a community that is inclusive of the four GLBT categories, but not necessarily limited to them. But "queer" still hurts, and I think it always will.

Please understand I am not rejecting the core values or ideological elements of what the term "queer" means to so many people who describe themselves in this way. In discussions and, sometimes, arguments with people regarding the "queer" label, I have been given a number of reasons why the word is so important to them or others as a tool of empowerment. I have been told that "queer" conveys an openness to a range of sexualities, is inclusive of the range of sexual identities, defines a category of scholarly endeavor, reflects the humor and propensity for parody so characteristic of GLBT communities, transcends and rejects the uptight, buttoned-down world of assimilationist politics, and is a pithy way to describe the long and fluid list encompassing our community. It is not these open and inclusive connotations that I see as problematic, but the word "queer" itself.

I recognize that I have no right to take offense at people's private conversations, and have no interest in seeing "language police" criticizing or censuring private discourse. But words used in public forums affect many people, and if any of those words come with a history of pain, their impact cannot be ignored.

Gay was chosen as a term of pride by a civil rights movement of homosexual men and women because of its history as a camp word for all things desirable, and due to its positive connotation and definition.

Unlike gay, "queer" has a history of negativity, both in its traditional definition, and as applied to homosexuals or gender variant people. A homophobic society labeled GLBT people "queer" because of its disparaging connotation. Random House Webster's Unabridged Dictionary (2001) defines "queer" as strange or odd from a conventional viewpoint, of a questionable nature or character, suspicious, shady, not feeling physically right or well, mentally unbalanced or deranged, and, slang and offensive for homosexual or unmanly. The synonyms they list for "queer" are unconventional, curious, freakish, eccentric, and weird. The New Oxford American Dictionary (2001) is sensitive to the current movement to take back "queer."

Many people I speak with liken gays taking back "queer" with blacks taking back "nigger" as a term of affection by young African Americans and their well-meaning white friends. But there is a great difference in the way the African American community has responded to this phenomenon with the n-word, and the GLBT community's response to the q-word. While many young blacks and young gays use "nigger" and "queer" self-referentially, the African American community has not embraced "nigger" the way an increasing number of GLBT community institutions have adopted "queer."

Guest Opinion

Some might resent the comparison of the way GLBT people have taken back "queer" with the much more limited way some African Americans use "nigger." Many people I have spoken with feel "nigger" is much more hateful than "queer," and that the two cannot be equated. To these people I ask what degree of hate does a word have to carry for it to achieve the hands-off space that the n-word inhabits for them. Is there a pain hierarchy for words that have consistently been used to insult, hurt, and degrade people?

Today, if a politician uses "nigger" in any way other than to show her disdain for the term, her career in politics is finished. But United States Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin felt free to refer to the "queer" civil rights movement in a PlanetOut interview a couple of years ago, and for the past two years straight Mayor Buddy Cianci of Providence has referred to "queers" from the podium at Pride celebrations.

"Queer" is still being used as a weapon against GLBT people. Mayor Emory Folmar of Montgomery, Alabama recently refused to meet with gay residents or support city AIDS services, saying, "I used the word queer and I'll use it again. I'm not going to call them gay. I don't approve of their lifestyle one bit." Two years ago Arthur Warren Jr. was kicked and beaten to death in his West Virginia hometown. A member of the West Virginia Lesbian and Gay Coalition was quoted in the *Charleston Gazette* as saying, "People would throw things at him as he walked down the street, call him queer and other names."

Can the meanings contained in words like "queer" actually be reversed? John N. Craig, MSW, in his April 1999 letter to the American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, argues that they cannot, and worries that clinicians can damage their clients by using this derogatory term themselves.

In reclaiming "queer," we may also be exhibiting nostalgia for an era when we were sexual outlaws. There is romanticism to living life on the margins, but I believe it comes at too heavy a price. Many have worked very hard for GLBT people to be taken seriously as a community, and I don't want to see this progress undermined. I don't want to have to explain to our confused straight allies why it is now okay to call us "queers" again. I don't want to disrespect and dishonor the work of an entire generation of activists who took us from the despair and self-hatred of the 1940s and 1950s, to the pride and empowerment of today. Most of all, I don't want to go backwards.

My political instincts see the GLBT community identifying as "queer" as a roadblock on the journey ahead of us. The messages we convey to each other and to the larger world as to who we are as a people will greatly impact the future course and progress of our movement. Words have power. "Queer" might seem sexy and exciting and radical and cool, but I cannot think of anything cooler than gay marriage rights, and nothing more exciting than equal opportunities for GLBT people in all spheres of life. ▼

Marc Paige writes on gay and AIDS issues.

LETTERS



Rally was 'scary'

At the Palestine pep rally on April 20 in Dolores Park, I noticed a glaring absence: Whenever one of the speakers would sound off all the oppressed people around the planet, they did not include "gay and lesbian."

I was not amused.

Face it: If Muslims ever get in control, we would be beheaded. That rally was scary.

James Martin
San Francisco

Sins of the Catholic Church

I'm 73 years old and I've been abused by the Catholic Church all my life. And I'm not a Catholic. I was told sometime before I was five by a Catholic playmate that my mother was going to burn in hell because she divorced my father. I prayed every night that God wouldn't do that to my mother. I woke up screaming, seeing the flames and smoke around her. I was terrified by "God" and his judgments. I prayed that he would burn me instead of her.

I wasn't aware of it then, but in the early 1930s, the Catholic Church was able to put pressure on the movie industry to censure anything sexual so I grew up thinking my mother and stepfather were sinful because they slept in a double bed. Movie characters slept in twin beds and had children without being pregnant. Sex was never fun or enjoyable and if it was, you were punished. Usually by death. There were absolutely no same-sex couples and everyone heterosexual got married before the final credits. Single parents were only allowed if the husband was killed in the war. No chance of me growing up with realistic expectations by going to the movies.

But things got worse for me because of the Catholic Church. The bishop in San Francisco wrote a public letter to Mayor Feinstein denouncing the domestic partners policy. He kicked my Catholic friends out of the churches where they held their Dignity meetings.

And then this feeble-minded pope called me and my life "intrinsically evil," opening the door to other feeble-minded thugs to bash me if they found the opportunity. I do not walk down the streets of any city free of fear. And Matthew Shepard couldn't even walk down a country lane without the possibility of him being bludgeoned to death and hung on a fence to freeze and bleed to death.

But there is more. A dear friend of mine was beaten up by her Catholic husband every time they had sex. Why? Because both of them had been divorced and this was their second marriage, but not in the eyes of the Catholic Church. In the church's eye, they were living in sin.

Thank God I am not a woman, forced to bear children for the church whether I wanted to be a parent or not; whether I could afford one more mouth to feed or not; whether I could love and raise this child or not. Thank God I am not a woman in the Catholic Church and sealed away for life in a container called "second-class."

But the worst thing the Catholic Church has done to me, a non-Catholic, is to curse the use of condoms, even for my gay brothers. Through the Catholic pressure, our TV networks won't even advertise condoms. So without citing all the reasons for using condoms since 1981, I'll simply say that there is blood on every priest's hands and because my brother and more than 100 of my friends have died of AIDS, I cannot find it in my heart to forgive the Catholic Church.

You may have noticed I didn't mention the putrid scandal that is shaking the rotten church to its Vatican foundations. Enough said. It will be of no great loss to the world to demolish this church as it stands. Maybe it can give itself a rebirth and provide comfort to those of us it has beaten, tortured, killed, lied to, stolen from, and abused all of our lives, Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

Bill Jones
San Rafael, California

Sex crises?

What is the most essential aspect of each and every human being? Sexuality.

When one human sees another approaching , what is the defining moment? Is it male or female? Then each individual knows how to react.

What does Christianity use as its hold over its adherents? The defining individual factor – sex. Christianity teaches its young, "don't do that," "that's dirty," "that's a sin," and "don't touch that."

At the same time, the Catholic Church co-opted ancient puberty rituals and teaches that adulthood arrives with a slap on the cheek by the bishop at puberty (confirmation); at what age? At age 14.

Information may be denied, but the hormones will not, leading to experimentation, kink, force, and a ravenous appetite for "porno."

To make progress in assisting people in understanding, accepting, appreciating, and enjoying the essence of their being, their sexuality, do the following:

Stop equating sex with sin.

Parents should accept responsibility for proactively educating their children, instead of merely producing them. Informed individuals make better decisions.

Lower the age of sexual consent to puberty.

Make sexual information available through education at an early age.

John Schank
San Pablo, California

Shelter update

Thank you for reporting on the status of the Ark House *["Ark House helps LGBT youth stay afloat," April 25].* I am pleased to hear that the program is making a difference in young people's lives.

My objection to your report is your continued characterization of the neighbors as having fears that "never materialized." In fact many neighbors worked countless volunteer hours with the city and Ark of Refuge to shape the program into its current form. What most neighbors feared is exactly what the program is not, "a shelter." The structure of the program, which is lauded throughout the article as a key factor in its success, was a core component the neighbors insisted upon and was initially resisted by many claiming to represent the program.

Continuing to promote the impression that the neighbors are unsupportive does not help in the transition to another space. I would suggest that highlighting the fact that the program design had significant neighborhood input that has positively contributed to the program success would go further in helping the new neighbors welcome the program.

Andrew Bertagnolli, Ph.D.
San Francisco

No sense of humor

I worry about a world where racism can damage peoples lives but I worry as much about a world where people have lost their sense of humor. Abercrombie and Fitch is now racist? If ever there was a tempest in a teapot (or a T-shirt) this is it *["LGBT Asians speak out against Abercrombie," April 25].* To equate the conscious oppression of any minority, or majority for that matter, with a handful of silly puns seems way out of whack. For anyone who is a fan of the A&F catalogues you know that the ongoing joke is seeing how far photographer Bruce Weber will go in getting some very healthy young men and women to drop their drawers. Are they being exploited? If they are then everybody seems to be going along for the ride and having a good laugh on the way.

Also, did Katie Zak Szymanski actually read the Spring Break issue before she labeled the images of the African Americans as stereotypical. My copy of that issue had a rather sassy looking black woman (used by the *B.A.R.* as an example of racial stereotyping) who is the owner of the restaurant where everyone is eating; an older black man who it appears operates a produce stand, two gorgeous black soccer players, black choirs and jazz bands and in every scenario blacks and whites are seen having a great time together. There also is a shot of a white man coaching a young black tennis player. I can see how this would broil the butt of some good old boys in the deep south but how Ms. Szymanski views this as stereotyping is beyond me. Please, before you start slinging mud, do your homework first.

The unfortunate fact is that there will always be bigots out there. I applaud anyone who wants to fight for equality and understanding but pick your enemies wisely. Otherwise, you are in danger of slipping into the left-wing version of McCarthyism. Of course, if you want to continue this sort of rant then you better get down to Pottery Barn right now because they are selling beach towels with pictures of bare breasted hula girls. That's bound to piss somebody off. And don't forget to hit the Irish bars on St. Patrick's Day. There's always at least one person wearing a T-shirt with a drunken leprechaun on it.

Just count me out. As an Italian American I will be at home watching, and loving, reruns of *The Sopranos.*

As Wavy Gravy says, "If you don't have a sense of humor, it's not funny."

Tom DiRenzo
San Francisco

Disappointed in column

I always enjoy reading about LGBT history. You'll understand, then, when I say that I was disappointed in the Past Out column on lesbian tennis players *["What role have lesbians played in tennis," April 25].* In describing Martina Navratilova's coming out process, columnist Paula Martinac states that "she began hedging the issue of her sexuality, trying to portray herself as bisexual, even though all of her relationships were with women."

This statement disappoints me, because it shows a lack of knowledge regarding and respect for the many ways in which bisexuals come out and have relationships. Coming out as bisexual is not an attempt to "hedge" anything; for many, coming out as bi can be

next page ▶

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an arduous process, fraught with as much danger as a realization of any other type on non-heterosexuality. In saying that Martina was "trying to portray herself" as bi, the implication is made that that portrayal is a falsehood, that she can't possibly be or have been bi. Why not?

The statement implies that the reason this bi "portrayal" must have been a falsehood is because of information about the gender of Martina's partners. As any bisexual will tell you, the gender of one's partner will not tell you anything about one's orientation.

Having relationships with people of only one gender is not any proof that someone is lying about or "hedging around" their stated bisexuality. Many bisexuals only date people of one gender; this doesn't not lessen the reality that they are attracted to people of both genders. One's sexual orientation can be a mixture of acknowledgments regarding gender(s) of people to whom one is attracted, about whom one has fantasies, with whom one has sex with, and with whom one has relationships.

Hence, it's perfectly possible that Martina is – or was – a bisexual, and at the same time is or was someone who only dated women.

This sort of biphobia has no place in a newspaper that attempts to speak to a LGBT audience. I ask that, in the future, you please be more mindful of the many ways in which people are bisexual, and leave out the implications that they are maintaining falsehoods about themselves.

Amy Andre
San Francisco

Clean up the Castro

In view of the fact that I own a business in the Castro and represent the neighborhood as president of the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro, I feel compelled to voice my unhappiness regarding the sad state of the sidewalks and streets in our world-renowned neighborhood.

I have been working closely with the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services as well as the Department of Public Works and SWAP to ensure the gutters and sidewalks are swept on a regular basis on Saturday and Sunday mornings. In addition, I have been very vocal in pressing the merchants to maintain their sidewalks. However, the amount of trash in the form of coffee cups, food plates, and containers, as well as newspapers, store bags, and cigarette butts found along the sidewalks and gutters of our neighborhood is an embarrassment and should be of concern to all. This trash does not leap from the hands of passersby and fall to the sidewalk, but, rather, is tossed there by people seemingly unconcerned about this act of littering.

We have more than 30 city-provided trash cans in the Upper Market and Castro area which should be used for their intended purpose. Are we expecting too much from citizens to hold onto their trash until they encounter a receptacle? I prefer to believe this is not so.

I'm not certain I understand the wisdom behind those promotional flyers and handouts that certain organizations and clubs (especially dance clubs) post on bus shelters, vacant storefronts, poles, and unattended automobiles in the neighborhood. Graffiti comes in all forms and this sophomoric posting is no better than "tags" placed by juveniles on storefronts and public spaces. It's high time those responsible for these postings are pressured to do the right thing and use the two public bulletin boards which Tom Basch took great pains to get the city to provide.

Each of us doing our bit to help in maintaining the character of our neighborhood pays dividends well beyond the cleanliness issue. I assume we all clean our houses; why not take the same pride in our neighborhood?

Patrick Batt
San Francisco

'Sleaze at its best'

Shame on Arthur Evans for writing and complaining about drunks, junkies, and drug dealers in the Castro. Those three descriptions are what makes the Castro the wonderful place it is and I happen to be one of the residents who enjoys drugs, junkies, drug dealers, and medical marijuana users milling about. When I use the parking lot, it brings a smile to my face to see burned-out junkies, wrapped in a quilt, sleeping in the back of the parking lot alongside the fence, nestled far away from the human dung carefully displayed in a distant corner.

If Mr. Evans thinks that the Castro should look like downtown Palo Alto or Santa Barbara, then he doesn't fit in the neighborhood. The Castro and its inhabitants represent sleaze at its best and makes it more convenient for people like me to have this filth located locally rather than have to travel across the city to the Tenderloin.

Mr. Evans ought to clean up his act and stop complaining about the dirt and filth or I will see to it personally that he is wrapped in Gap clothing and made to serve a 30-day sentence as an employee of Pottery Barn at Castro and Market. Looking out the window and viewing all the fun people might cause him to rethink his bourgeois attitudes.

Andrew J. Betancourt
San Francisco

Someone to hate

It was no surprise to me that most of the members of Congress support Israel's actions and look down on the activities of the Palestinians. We Americans always need someone to hate. We want to have some group to despise and denigrate. African Americans were not hated when they were slaves. White people saw them as animals to be worked. It was not until the slaves were freed by Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, that black Americans were despised, lynched, and kept in their place.

Native Americans were treated like animals and slaughtered in a Holocaust of 10 million people over a 300-year history. Whites reneged on treaties, set up reservations, and treated Native Americans as inferiors to be ignored as much as possible. When I was a boy going to the movies in the 1940s Hollywood had the Indians as the bad guys and the cowboys as the good guys. We cheered when the cavalry rode into action to kill and rout the Indians.

Anti-Semitism helped us hate the Jews. They were discriminated against in higher education, certain businesses, and kept out of private clubs and neighborhoods. President Franklin Roosevelt would not allow Jewish refugees to enter the United States in World War 11.

During WW II we Americans vented our hate against the Nazis and Japanese. Dropping the Atomic bomb on Nagasaki and Hiroshima we expressed our hate on millions of innocent civilians.

Then after the war African Americans released from military service were not hirable in many American industries. The legal racial discrimination against African Americans did not cease until the Civil Rights Act of 1964. After that there was a series of people to hate. Beatniks, hippies, Hispanics, black power advocates and all along we could hate homosexuals – and still do.

It is more politically correct to hate homosexuals these days. In many parts of the country lesbians and gays are persecuted, discriminated against in church and state. This hatred is still all too blatant and dangerous. Matthew Shepard comes to mind.

Now it is really popular to hate the Arabs, especially Palestinians. They are seen as a tribe of subhuman beings, evil. They only want to throw Israel into the sea. Golda Meir and Moishe Dayan when visiting the United States voiced these remarks. Teenagers who go to Israel on educational jaunts often return with prejudices against Arabs.

The cruel murder of thousands of Americans and the destruction of the World Trade Center by Arabs exacerbates our hatred of all Arabs. Many Americans are finding someone new to hate. They are the Arabs. No one consciously says that out loud. The fact that the majority of the Congress supports Israel against the Palestinians gives evidence of the anti-Arab sentiment just below the surface of our consciousness. Writer Robert Scheer has pointed out that the media's bias against Arabs may be seen by the fact that there are so few, if any, Arab American journalists on the staff of newspapers and TV outlets.

The way out of this cycle of hatred is to recollect that we are all human beings. We are all good and bad, right and wrong. No one group has all the answers. Arabs who hate all Americans are just as arrogant as Americans who hate all Arabs.

We can get to know and appreciate our Arab brothers and sisters as human beings. They can get to know us too. Learning to live in an imperfect world means we move away from the hatred of people we do not know toward an openness and willingness to understand people different from us.

Rev. Robert Warren Cromey (Ret.)
San Francisco

Musical recalled

Richard Dodds is correct when he says that Hollywood passed on the 1942 gender-bending musical *By Jupiter ["Greeks vz. Amazons," April 25]*. Greg McKellan also mentions this pertinent fact in his program notes for the current 42nd Street Moon concert production.

It should be pointed out, however, that the film studios did bring to the screen the 1932 Katharine Hepburn play on which the Rodgers and Hart musical was based.

The Warrior's Husband was made into a film shortly after the 1932 Broadway show closed. Elissa Landi and David Manners, not superstars by today's standards but still well-known actors of the early 1930s, played the romantic leads. I saw the film as an early teenager and if memory serves me correctly, the role played by Ray Bolger in *By Jupiter* and essayed by Bill Fahrner for 42nd Street Moon featured Ernest Truex, a mild-mannered comedian who was popular at the time.

Dean Goodman
San Francisco

Bush boosts Simon; Davis leads in polls

by Wayne Friday

Help came not a minute too soon for **Bill Simon** for what many see as his lagging gubernatorial campaign when President **George W. Bush** spent the early part of the week in California – his fourth visit since moving into the White House – in an attempt to put some life in the Simon for Governor effort.

In two appearances, one in Los Angeles on Monday and the other in Santa Clara on Tuesday, Bush created an opportunity for Republican Simon to raise between $3 and $4 million for the November election and also gave the underdog candidate a chance to at least temporarily seize the political spotlight at a time when the campaign has struggled to gain momentum.

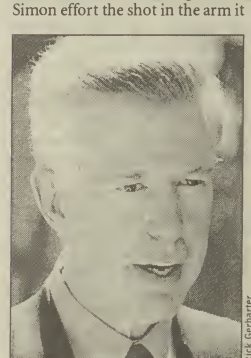


Our Man Friday

The Monday fundraiser at the Century Plaza Hotel sold out at nearly 1,100 people who paid at least $1,000 to attend. The Bay Area luncheon on Tuesday had originally been scheduled for a Foster City hotel, but after the organizers sold out the 550-seat venue, the event was moved to the Santa Clara Convention Center, which holds 1,200 people. Why the Northern California Bush appearance was not scheduled for one of San Francisco's larger hotels went unexplained, though some suspected that the White House wanted to avoid any organized protests against the president.

Bush, who backed former Los Angeles Mayor **Richard Riordan** as his candidate in the March 5 GOP primary, publicly pleaded for Simon's election at both the Los Angeles and Santa Clara events and the GOP faithful in the state clearly hope the Bush appearances will help unite the party, which remains badly divided between moderates and conservatives.

While Bush's two-day appearance in California this week clearly raised big bucks for Simon's campaign, there remained doubt as to whether or not it gave the Simon effort the shot in the arm it needs to overtake Governor **Gray Davis** in November. Indeed, a new Field Poll released this week shows that Davis, who was actually trailing both Simon and Riordan just before the March 5 primary, has now shot to a 14-point lead over the conservative Simon. The Field Poll has Davis leading by a 43 percent to 29 percent margin, with 26 percent of likely voters still undecided. Bush's popularity itself has dropped in California since he was last in the state, but while the president still enjoys an unusually high rating of 63 percent, his ratings have dropped from the 72 percent he held in California in January.



Rick Gerharter

Governor Gray Davis

The Field Poll shows that most of the drop in Bush's ratings were among Democratic voters, though 91 percent of the state's GOP voters still think Bush is doing a good job. Not surprisingly, Bush's lowest overall approval ratings are in the heavily Democratic Bay Area where only 50 percent think he is doing a good job as president.

Field Poll director **Mark DiCamillo** told reporters that Bush's failure to have much impact on the escalating conflict in the Middle East was thought to be the main reason Californians (the state voted for **Al Gore** in the 2000 presidential election) have lost faith in Bush, who had gained the nation's near-universal support immediately following the terrorist attacks of September 11.

Bush obviously would prefer a Republican in the governor's office as he goes into the 2004 campaign, but whether he puts his full weight into the Simon effort from now until November or whether national and international events keep him "too occupied" depends on how Simon's chances actually look to the White House as the election nears.

While Davis is clearly viewed as the current favorite as we go into May, the recent Field Poll also shows that many state voters are not all that thrilled with either of the two candidates. DiCamillo, the Field Poll director, did have some good news for Davis, however, in saying that as the Davis campaign manages to identify Simon as being "far too conservative" for most Californians, it was having effect on the race since, DiCamillo pointed out "the most damning statistic [for Simon] is that moderate voters are moving to Davis by a 3-to-1 margin."

Politics and people

As political consultants go, there are none better than **Jack Davis** and my spies tell me the man who elected the past two San Francisco mayors was spotted having dinner with not one, but two possible mayoral candidates in the same week recently. "The Jack is back?" Could be.

Assemblyman-to-be **Mark Leno** was among those residents doing the "Bubble Bath on Castro" bit early Sunday morning as a crowd of Castro area folks scrubbed and swept down the sidewalks of the Castro. Red Grille Restaurant owner **Greg Bronstein** then hosted the entire crowd to brunch later at his popular 18th Street eatery.

Incidentally, some of those who should know tell me that former Mayor **Art Agnos**, thought to be a serious candidate (if he so chooses) as a replacement for soon-to-be termed-out state Senator **John Burton** (D-San Francisco), is also being urged by more than a few to take another look at the mayoral race next year.

The even-numbered district supervisors have to run this November and though District 6 Supe **Chris Daly** won in a landslide last time out, I'm told that a young candidate in that district, **Michael Sweet**, is making friends fast; and in District 2, where **Gavin Newsom** had been thought to have a lock on his seat, a candidate, **Lynne Newhouse Segal**, has emerged and she reportedly has plenty of campaign funds to spend.

I probably shouldn't even go here, but I can't blame those gay Catholics who are hot under the collar because they feel that they are being singled out for the Catholic Church's growing sexual scandals. Probably true that as many as a third (maybe half?) of the nation's 45,000 priests are said to be gay, but it is far too easy for the Holy Father and the American cardinals to make gay priests the scapegoats of this witch-hunt. The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, **Wilton D. Gregory**, who is bishop of the Diocese of Belleville, Illinois, hinted that gay priests would be blamed for the pedophilia when he (Gregory), an African American, promised that the theory of Cardinal **Theodore McCarrick** of Washington, D.C. would get "comprehensive study" at an upcoming June meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. McCarrick says that "no homosexuals should be admitted to seminary," and Gregory seemingly concurs, calling it a "struggle to make sure that the Catholic priesthood is not dominated by homosexual men." Lay Catholics have no respect and lovno e for gay priests? Tell that to the hundreds of straight Catholic fire and police officers and their families in New York City who mourned at the funeral of Father **Mychal Judge**, an openly gay priest who was immensely popular and was killed while ministering to the victims of the World Trade Center on September 11. Though most of the firefighters reportedly knew of Father Judge's sexuality, he was loved by all of them, and in October, a group of NYC firefighters actually presented the pope with the helmet of Judge, their chaplain, and I'm told his photo hangs today in nearly every NYC firehouse.

Incidentally, at least 175 American priests have either resigned or been defrocked since January but no statistics on how many of them were accused of abusing young boys – or girls.

East Bay Representative **Barbara Lee** was named the 2002 recipient of the Wayne Morse Award last week, an honor bestowed annually on a legislator exemplifying integrity in leadership. The Oakland Democrat is the second woman to win the award, named after the late Oregon senator and former law school dean, since it was created in 1987. Lee gained national attention last year by being the only member of Congress to vote against a resolution ceding congressional authority to the president with regard to using military force in response to the September 11 terrorist attacks.

A switch of only seven seats in the November election could give

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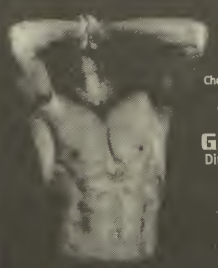
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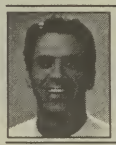
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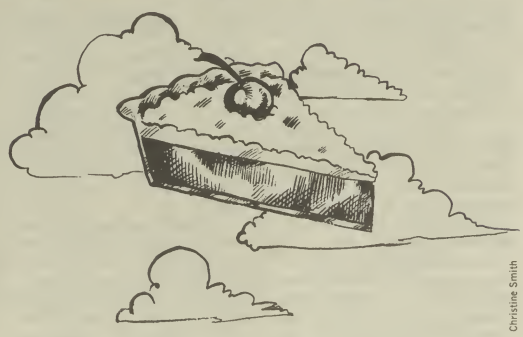
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Dare to dream of transgender equality

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith


Christine Smith

If you are passionate about transgender rights, then April was a dream come true.

We started the month with a victory in Allentown, Pennsylvania. On April 3, Allentown's City Council voted 5 to 2 to include gender identity and sexual orientation in its Human Relations Commission ordinance. Additional work being done in other parts of Pennsylvania has certainly been buoyed by this victory, in spite of challenges being raised by anti-gay activists.

It's the same story in Tacoma, Washington, where the City Council voted on April 23 to pass its addition of gender identity and sexual orientation to its anti-discrimination law. While it is also expected to be challenged by anti-gay forces, it still passed by an 8 to 1 margin.

These two victories would be big on their own, but one day after the Tacoma vote, New York City finally passed its own civil rights protections covering gender identity or expression. The vote in New York City was another lopsided win, with a staggering 45 to 5 vote in favor of the bill.

Transmissions

The New York City victory is huge. This is a law that affects more than 8,000,000 people. If the transgender population of New York City is only 1 percent overall, this still means coverage for 80,000 transgendered individuals.

These gains are not isolated: they represent only a portion of more than 40 cities and states across the country that have civil rights laws on their books designed to protect transgendered people. The list is varied, from San Francisco and West Hollywood, to Rhode Island and the tiny community of Pine Lakes, Georgia. Many more laws are sure to follow.

There is something else about these victories that I think is more important than how many people the laws will cover, or what percentage voted for them. It's that these ordinances were achieved by otherwise ordinary transgendered people who felt that they were not being protected by their government, and grouped together to make change.

Back in high school, when I first embarked for the world of activism, a sociology teacher taught me the concept of relative deprivation. Basically put, it is when you discover that something is being kept from you that others are given – you are being deprived, relative to what others are provided. It is a concept that I am sure many transgendered people – and many other groups – are very familiar with, even if they didn't know the fancy term I picked up in high school.

There were people in Tacoma, Allentown, and New York City – and several other places – who felt that they were being deprived of their rights, relative to those given to other people. In these areas, small groups of activists banded together, and worked toward change.

Some of the folks in New York City are friends of mine, and they are not that different from any of us. While some of them have been activists for many years, others are fresh to these struggles. We're not just talking about hardened veterans of the gender wars, but real people who reached a point where they had to throw their hats over the wall and fight for their rights – and they did.

As more of these ordinances pass, transgendered people in other areas will also discover that they are being deprived of rights that others – including other transgendered people living in "protected" cities – are given.

Think of your own life. Are there rights that others have that you find yourself lacking? Perhaps your location doesn't cover employment and housing protections for transgendered people. Perhaps there is no hate crimes statute, or no anti-discrimination laws at all. You may even come from a state where the documents of transgendered people are not easily changed to reflect one's desired gender presentation.

Others have those rights – shouldn't you? Aren't these things worth fighting for?

Once you have found what is lacking, take a moment to look for that "pie in the sky." What would be the ultimate goal? What is the most amazing thing you could see happen? Sometimes, these ideas might be as odd a notion as the "flying car" of old science fiction, or they may be something far more practical – the scope is truly up to you.

There have been two notable occasions where I have been a part of "blue sky" notions that have been achieved: in 1993, I was part of a coalition that was trying to get America Online to allow transgendered discussions within its terms of service agreement. When those of us in this group sat down, our most outrageous thought was to get an online forum on AOL for discussing transgender issues. The very thought was ludicrous. Two years – and a lot of work – later, it existed.

Likewise, many local activists

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Our Man Friday

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control of the House of Representatives to the Democrats, and while President Bush still maintains high poll numbers, even Republican congressional leaders privately fear that Democrats could pick up a couple of Senate seats. The GOP is really worried about the battle for the nation's governorships. Of the 36 governor's races at stake this year, 23 are held by Republicans and the GOP officials concede that they are likely to lose statehouses in Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin, and face strong challenges in Pennsylvania, Tennessee, New Mexico, Arizona, Kansas, and Rhode Island - all states currently run by Republican governors. In contrast, those states where Democratic governors are thought to be in trouble – Alaska, Hawaii, and New Hampshire – are all small states and not thought to be critical on the electoral map and therefore not heavily in play when it comes to electing a president in 2004. In addition, the nation's biggest prize, California, once thought to be ripe for the GOP, is now expected to re-elect its Democratic governor, Gray Davis.

Oakland, a city founded with only 76 residents, celebrates its 150th birthday this week and the population has grown to more than 400,000, but many apparently still feel there is no "there" there.

And in Dallas, the City Council is reviewing a proposal that seeks to protect gays and lesbians in hiring, housing, and public accommodations such as hotels and restaurants. The council set May 8 as a tentative date for a vote. Violations would be treated as misdemeanors, punishable with a $200 to $500 fine.

East Bay Congresswoman **Ellen Tauscher** (D-Alamo) was thought to be a political outcast within her party last year when she was the lone Democrat in the California House delegation not to vote for Representative **Nancy Pelosi** (D-San Francisco) as House minority whip. Well, as it turns out, Tauscher, highly popular in her 10th District, is the only Demo incumbent to have no GOP opponent in November; look for Tauscher to be a strong candidate to replace Senator **Dianne Feinstein** if she retires after her current term.

All 14 candidates who were defeated in the recent French election primary have quickly united to endorse incumbent French President **Jacques Chirac** in his Sunday (May 5) runoff election against far-right leader **Jean-Marie Le Pen** of the National Front Party (many of the French voters are adopting the theme that the FN initials of Le Pen's party mean "F like Fascist, N like Nazi").

Finally, my "quote of the week" comes from Washington, D.C. Cardinal Theodore McCarrick: "I'm 71 years old and I have never had sexual relations with anybody – man, woman or child, and that can go on the record." Well, okay.

And how was your week? ▼

COMMENTARY

The scarlet P

by Dale Carpenter

You knew it would come back to us. As soon as you heard that some altar boys got molested by some parish priests you knew they'd find a way, once again, to pin the scarlet "P" on all gays. The Catholic Church sex scandal is just another in a long line of controversies that show the anti-gay uses to which the fear of pedophilia is put. In one way or another, kids figure into almost every modern controversy involving gay rights.



Never mind that studies show gays are no more likely than straight people to be pedophiles, that is, to be sexually attracted to children. Nor are we more likely to be ephebophiles, that is, attracted to post-pubescent teenagers.

Gays and youth have always been a volatile political mix, and a potent weapon in the hands of those who oppose equality.

Remember Colorado's Amendment 2? In 1992, Colorado voters passed a state constitutional amendment in the form of a statewide referendum that repealed and forever forbade all civil rights protections for gays anywhere in the state. This meant, in practice, that local civil rights ordinances that protected gays from discrimination in public accommodations, housing, and employment were wiped out.

Such a law could have been defended, though not very persuasively, on libertarian grounds. Supporters of Amendment 2 could have emphasized that they were preserving the freedom of employers to fire people as they please, or protecting the religious freedom of landlords to rent only to those whose lives satisfied their moral scruples. They might have emphasized the virtue of avoiding the litigation costs that inevitably come with civil rights laws.

Instead, they acted as if local communities in the state were legalizing child sexual abuse and that a state constitutional amendment was the only way to stop the pedophiles. On the eve of the election, supporters of Amendment 2 distributed 800,000 flyers asserting: "Sexual molestation of children is a large part of many homosexuals' lifestyle – part of the very lifestyle 'gay-rights' activists want government to give special class, ethnic status." The fliers claimed that "homosexuals commit between 1/3 of all recorded child molestations."

These assertions – even if they had been true, which they assuredly were not – had nothing whatsoever to do with the laws Amendment 2 repealed. But as political demagoguery, the image of child-molesting homosexuals was very powerful: Amendment 2 passed by a slim margin.

How about the controversy over the Boy Scouts? The Boy Scouts have defended their policy of excluding gay scoutmasters on the ground that they have a constitutional right to associate or not associate with anyone they please.

Very well and good, but why would they not want to associate with gays? That's easy: according to the Boy Scouts of America, gay scoutmasters are not a suitable role model for boys and teenagers because gays are not "morally straight" and "clean."

During the height of the debate over this policy, parents of Scouts across the country wrote their local newspapers to say that they simply would not trust gay scoutmasters with their boys on overnight camping trips.

Then there's the ongoing cultural and legal tussle over gay marriage. The debate over gay marriage started out on religious terrain, with opponents of gay marriage saying that marriage is a God-ordained institution necessarily involving a man and a woman. When supporters of gay marriage pointed out that marriage is a civil institution, apart from any religious significance it might have, opponents shifted the terms of the debate.

Next they argued that gay marriage would somehow weaken heterosexual marriages. When no married couples stepped forward to confess how eager they were to dissolve their bonds and marry people of the same-sex, this argument was discarded.

Now the debate has shifted largely to a discussion about how gay marriage would affect children. Opponents of gay marriage argue that gays aren't good at raising children, either because the children turn out gay (which is taken to be harmful) or because gay parents will model bad values or warp their children's development. Worst of all, gay couples will be more likely than straight couples to molest children they are charged with raising.

None of this is true, but arguments along these lines have had remarkable staying power in public debate.

Now, it seems, gays are somehow responsible for the crisis in the Catholic Church. Some church leaders have said explicitly that gay men should not be allowed to become priests. Detroit's Cardinal Adam Maida put it bluntly: "I think what the behavioral scientists are telling us, the sociologists, it's not truly a pedophilia-type problem but a homosexual-type problem."

I'm not sure what "behavioral scientists" or "sociologists" Cardinal Maida consults, but if they're telling him gay men have a disproportionate fondness for children and teenage boys they're dead wrong.

It appears, from the anecdotal evidence so far, that most of the abuse cases involved priests and teenage males. But then it also appears that the Catholic priesthood is itself disproportionately homosexual. The abuse cases represent a tiny portion of all Catholic priests and a tiny portion of the homosexual priests.

Homosexuals are as capable of lecherous behavior as anyone else. We are as capable of abusing positions of authority and trust – as these priests surely did – as anyone else. We ought to be punished when we do things harmful to minors, as should anyone else. But we should not be scapegoated by a Catholic hierarchy for sins that are no more ours than they are anyone else's. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.

Transmissions

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knew that getting health benefits for transgendered city workers in San Francisco would be, at best, an uphill battle. Many were sure that it was simply not possible. It was an uphill battle, and didn't win with the sizable margins that the recent April victories enjoyed. Nevertheless, the health benefits package was achieved.

I am sure that the first wave of transgendered and other activists never thought it would be possible for victories like we've seen in Allentown, Tacoma, or New York City. I certainly doubt they expected these laws to pass by sizable margins – but they did.

So I leave you with this: What rights do you lack today, and what would be your wildest dream come true? Where is your piece of the pie?

If this April was any indication, you may be able to achieve a dream for transgender equality after all. ▼

Gwen Smith applauds every person who helped make these victories possible. She can be found on the Web in Gay.com's "Transgender Gazebo," and at www.gwensmith.com.

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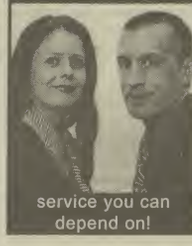
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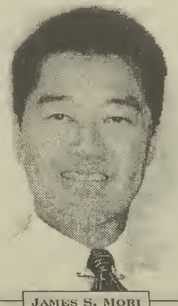


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Mark Bingham's mom fights for cockpit safety, gay rights

by Ed Walsh

Alice Hoglan, the mother of Flight 93 hero Mark Bingham, plans to keep her son's fighting spirit alive through her outspoken advocacy for improved airline safety as well as her unwavering support for gay rights.

Hoglan plans to participate in a major benefit in her son's memory scheduled for Saturday, May 18, just four days before what would have been Bingham's 32nd birthday. Earlier that week she will attend his private burial service. Hoglan told the *Bay Area Reporter* that she is looking ahead to the fundraiser and other activities that will more appropriately celebrate Bingham's life and spirit.

"I don't really want to put emphasis on the casket and burial because Mark lived his life so crazily and fully when he was alive it seems pointless to focus on putting what's left of his body in the ground," said Hoglan, noting that the benefit will fund a scholarship fund in her son's memory.

In March, Hoglan spoke in support of gay rights before the Human Rights Campaign in Washington, D.C. Bingham was openly gay and the star player for the San Francisco Fog, a predominately gay rugby team. He said his participation in the team helped him reconcile his love of sports with being gay.

"It was powerful and a very important time for me," Hoglan said of her appearance at the HRC event. "I was very glad to have that opportunity because it has opened my eyes to issues that confront gay people in the U.S. I've become moved to speak out on gay issues."



The late Mark Bingham

On Monday, May 6, Hoglan will be speaking at the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund's 16th annual Liberty Awards gala in New York. Bingham will be honored at the event. She is also considering an invitation to attend the Gay Games this November in Sydney, Australia.

Flight 93 tape

Last month, Hoglan, along with about 100 others who lost relatives on United Airlines Flight 93, listened to the cockpit voice recording that documented the life and death struggle passengers had with the terrorists, forcing them to miss their intended target in Washington, D.C. The plane crashed into an empty field in rural Pennsylvania. She told the *B.A.R.* that she was very grateful for the opportunity.

"It was a heartrending experience," said Hoglan, as her voice choked with emotion. "Beautiful and horrible at the same time. It was just gut-wrenching to hear the ruthless act of the terrorists on the cockpit voice recording and it was really uplifting to hear how our loved ones responded to it and how they pulled together and were able to act in the last few minutes of the flight. Even if they weren't able to save their own lives, they were able to stop the terrorists from killing hundreds, maybe thousands of people on the ground and demolishing a national landmark whether it be the U.S. Capitol or the White House or some other landmark in Washington, D.C.

"I'm very grateful to Deena Burnett particularly for spearheading the effort," noted Hoglan, referring to the wife of another Flight 93 hero, Tom Burnett.

Hoglan and other relatives who listened to the recording were asked by the Justice Department not to go into details about what was on the tape out of concern that it could jeopardize the prosecution of the so-called 20th hijacker, Zacarias Moussaoui.

Hoglan said that although she couldn't go into detail, the recording reaffirmed her belief that her son and others on board Flight 93 acted heroically to avoid a greater tragedy.

"I can tell you that I heard many voices in Arabic and English and I am convinced absolutely that there was a team effort. I am extremely proud of my son and I'm very grateful to the other heroes who were on board who pitched in and at least achieved a measure of victory for themselves and for innocent people on the ground.

"What we heard in those 31 minutes confirms to my joy that our loved ones worked in concert and were able, in those last desperate minutes, to keep hijackers from killing people on the ground. They pulled it together. They were a pickup team coming from many different sports disciplines.

"We heard evidence to confirm that there was truly an heroic and touching act that took place on that flight by our loved ones and



Rick Gerharter

Alice Hoglan

America has reason to be proud of the passengers on Flight 93. There were 40 heroes on that flight, as Deena Burnett said, everyone had a role, whether actively fighting with the terrorists or sitting and praying. Everyone had a role."

Hoglan, who has continued in her job as a United Airlines flight attendant, told the *B.A.R.* that listening to the cockpit recording has made her more motivated than ever to work toward improving airline security.

"Hearing what happened has strengthened my drive to exhort the airline industry to mend its ways," explained Hoglan, "to embrace, even innovate real significant change and to cease and desist to be satisfied with mere window dressing and to cease and desist the practice of systematically thwarting the agencies such as the FAA [Federal Aviation Administration] and the NTSB [National Transportation Safety Board] which already hobbled by its own ineffectiveness and are rendered essentially immobile and impotent by the foot dragging and duplicity of the aviation industry." ▼

The benefit for the Mark Bingham Leadership Fund will be held from 6-10 p.m., Saturday, May 18, at Club NV, 625 Howard Street, (at 1st Street), in San Francisco. A donation of $100 per person is asked but smaller donations will be accepted from those with limited means. This semiformal event will feature an open bar, music, dancing, and special guest speakers.

According to organizers, the Mark Bingham Leadership Fund is set up to "provide U.C. Berkeley tuition and expenses to young men and women who reflect Mark's qualities of leadership, teamwork, heroism, and sociability." More information can be found at www.MarkBingham.org.

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Sharon Gless says yes!

by Cynthia Laird

Actress Sharon Gless, who shot to stardom in the 1980s police drama *Cagney & Lacey* and now plays the role of Debbie, Michael's mom, on *Queer as Folk*, will join Sir Ian McKellen as celebrity grand marshal of this year's San Francisco Pride Parade, officials announced Tuesday, April 30.

Gless, a native Californian, said in a statement that she's looking forward to the grand marshal stint. "I'm delighted to be coming back to San Francisco for an event as wonderful as the Pride celebration."

Gless played a number of roles on television before achieving stardom as Christine Cagney in the old CBS detective series. The role brought her two Emmys and a Golden Globe Award. A second Golden Globe followed for *The Trials of Rosie O'Neill*. Her new role on Showtime's *Queer as Folk* has earned her a new generation of fans.

"It's great that Sharon will be there with us on June 30," said Pride President Joshua Smith. "She has been supportive of our community. Her versatility as an actress makes her timeless, iconic, and contemporary."

Gless will also host the 24th annual Pride concert, "You're a Grand Old F(l)ag," presented by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus and the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco that's scheduled for June 28. ▼

Abstinence and ENDA in Congress

by Bob Roehr

Abstinence-only education got a nod of approval and 50 million federal bucks from the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on April 25. The issue has been a rallying point for social conservatives and a bone of contention for liberals. Surveys show that about two-thirds of teens begin having sex before they complete high school.

The program promoting sexual abstinence was adopted five years ago as part of welfare reform and was being reauthorized for an additional five years.

Social conservatives have taken a cue from former first lady Nancy Reagan, pushing a "just say no" approach to sex until after marriage. They oppose programs that include information on condoms and other methods that can significantly decrease the risk of pregnancy or contracting sexually transmitted diseases. But they do want to teach the negative aspects of sexually transmitted diseases in the most graphic and fear-mongering terms.

An interim report by outside researchers for the Department of Health and Human Services said, "Most studies of abstinence education programs have methodological flaws that prevent them from generating reliable estimates of program impact." The complete report is due in 2005.

"This is a research report that forgot to include any research," said James Wagoner, president of Advocates for Youth. "I guess that's what happens when you put public relations before public health."

Several outside organizations conducted their own evaluations of abstinence-only programs. Among them was a report released in March by the AIDS Research Institute at the University of California, San Francisco.

It found "no evidence that abstinence-only programs delay sexual initiation or reduce STIs [sexually transmitted infections] or pregnancy" in peer-reviewed journals, the standard by which research is evaluated. It found that some sex education programs have had measurable results in reducing rates of STIs and "do not encourage young people to initiate sexual activity earlier or have more sexual partners."

It fears that "abstinence-only programs risk alienating the young people at highest risk of negative health outcomes by promoting a 'one size fits all' vision of adolescence that matches the true experiences of only a minority of youth."



Rep. Henry Waxman

California is the only state that has declined to take federal money for abstinence-only education programs, so it was appropriate that Californians led the way in pushing for "abstinence plus" funding that allows for a variety of local options.

Representative Lois Capps (D-California) lambasted conservatives for "trying to use terror techniques to keep teens from having sex" by exaggerating and misrepresenting the failure rate of condoms. Her amendment to assure that only medically accurate information be included in state programs was defeated when Republicans argued that it was impossible to decide just what was medically accurate.

"A gag rule on information is no way to solve a serious health problem," said Representative Henry Waxman (D-California). The committee rejected his amendment to allow states to create alternative programs with the money.

Committee chair W.J. "Billy" Tauzin (R-Louisiana) argued for a clear message on abstinence. "We don't relay the mixed messages to our teens not to smoke, but if they do smoke, make sure to smoke filtered cigarettes. We give clear messages to stop other behavior health risks, so why should sexual activity be any different?"

ENDA

The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, chaired by Senator Ted Kennedy (D-Massachusetts), passed the Employment Non-Discrimination Act on a voice vote on April 24.

The measure would prohibit workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, though it exempts the military, religious organizations, small businesses with fewer than 15 employees, and voluntary organizations such as the Boy Scouts. It specifically rejects affirmative action and quotas.

"The patchwork of protection from employment discrimination leaves many American workers without redress," said Kennedy in moving the vote. "A federal law is sorely needed to ensure that all Americans receive equal treatment in the workplace."

Senator Susan Collins (R-Maine) previously had opposed ENDA, preferring action at the state level. But after offering two "clarifying amendments" that were accepted on a voice vote, she joined the "ayes" for passage of the entire bill. She said, "In the final analysis, I simply do not believe it is fair to allow discrimination in the workplace against men and women solely because of their sexual orientation."

Other Republicans on the committee continue to have reservations. Judd Gregg (New Hampshire) fears "a lawsuit heaven." Bill Frist (R-Tennessee) shares those concerns.

Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign that has pushed ENDA, called it an "historic bipartisan voice vote."

The Family Research Council mouthed its traditional blather of how ENDA will undermine heterosexual marriage.

Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-South Dakota) has said that he will schedule a full Senate vote on ENDA this year. But it is unlikely to come until after Labor Day as Congress rushes to adjourn. The measure came surprisingly close to passing the Senate in 1996, losing by only 50 to 49.

HRC is confident that they have the votes to pass ENDA in the Senate but is less sure that they have the 60 votes necessary to close off debate should an opponent try the tactic of a filibuster to block the vote. Prospects for action in the House this year are not encouraging. ▼

Tom Ammiano and Mark Leno host budget meetings

by Matthew S. Bajko

As the city faces a $130 million budget deficit, the Board of Supervisors is hosting town hall meetings to gather input from residents on where best to make cuts and which services to roll back.

In order to balance the city's $5.3 billion budget for the next fiscal year, the mayor's budget director has already warned that service cuts, fee increases, and layoffs may be needed. Mayor Willie Brown has already asked all city departments and agencies to suggest a 10 percent cut in their budgets.

By June 1, the mayor must submit a balanced budget to the Board of Supervisors. Before they begin deliberations on the budget, the supervisors are hosting meetings in their districts with constituents.

"I believe it is crucial to hear from my constituents in order to identify my priorities for the upcoming budget," said Supervisor Mark Leno. "This is a great way for residents to educate themselves about the budget process and get involved in how it is crafted."

Leno is inviting residents of District 8 to a town hall meeting from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 7 in the auditorium at Everett Middle School, 450 Church Street. Representatives from various city departments, including the budget analyst's office, controller, treasurer, Department of Public Health and Muni, among others, are expected to be on hand.

Board President Tom Ammiano will host a meeting in District 9 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 8 at Horace Mann Middle School, 3351 23rd Street.

For more information, visit the city's Web site at www.sfgov.org or call (415) 554-7670. ▼

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Superior Court of California County of San Francisco Civil Grand Jury

After months of interviewing scores of city officials and examining city laws, policies and records, the 19-member San Francisco Civil Grand Jury recently released three detailed reports impacting all San Franciscans.

The complete reports are now available online at: www.sfgov.org/courts/grndjury

San Francisco General Hospital

San Francisco's only major trauma center, San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH), does not meet California seismic codes. Failure to comply with these codes will result in the closure of SFGH by 2008. Such a loss would impact all San Franciscans and must not be allowed to happen. SFGH must be rebuilt. To save SFGH, the Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and citizens must act quickly to obtain the funding necessary to build a new hospital.

Professional Services Contracting

Every year, San Francisco spends some $300 million to $400 million in city contracts for "Professional Services." The system used in awarding these contracts is grossly inefficient, lacking overall supervision or cost control. There are contradictory policies and procedures promulgated by competing city departments. The City Administrator, Department of Administrative Services, and the Purchasing Division, although charged with the overall responsibility, actually play a very minor role in overseeing the process; instead, the Human Rights Commission (HRC) has assumed the primary and most visible role in the purchasing process. The most significant impact of this is the HRC-issued instruction that price is not to be considered in selecting suppliers. According to the Civil Grand Jury report, enhanced leadership, coupled with improved processes would result in substantial savings for the City.

Billboards

Citizen action groups and Planning Department staff concur that San Francisco has hundreds of unidentified illegal outdoor advertising signs that should be removed. Presently there is no system of tracking billboard permits or identifying illegal signs. The Civil Grand Jury recommends imposing annual renewal fees for existing grandfathered billboards in order to monitor and enforce outdoor advertising regulations in San Francisco.

The complete reports are available online at www.sfgov.org/courts/grndjury and printed copies can be picked up at 400 McAllister Street, Room 205. If you have an area of concern or know of any governmental malfeasance, please contact the Civil Grand Jury at 551-3605. All calls received are kept confidential.

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St. Patrick's

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Matt Foreman, the former executive director of the New York Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, led off the meeting by noting that many high-ranking church officials, including New York's Cardinal Edward Egan, protected sex abusers in their ranks for decades while they "tortured victims" who dared to come forward with stories of molestation. Rather than admitting their guilt for those actions now, he said, officials have settled on "an orchestrated campaign" to cloud the real issue of sexually abusive clergy. As evidence, he also listed comments from American cardinals meeting at the Vatican and a statement from the bishop of Detroit that the problem is "not truly a pedophilia-type problem, but a homosexual-type problem."

After Foreman spoke, journalists Andy Humm and Ann Northrup moderated as attendees vented their frustration and suggested strategies to respond to Clark's comments. The suggestion that generated the most discussion was that of demonstrating inside St. Patrick's during Sunday's service. Many forcefully spoke against the idea, recalling a 1989 ACT UP protest at St. Patrick's, probably the most prominent symbol of Catholicism in the United States, that generated international press, mostly unfavorable. Others, however, argued that because Clark made his comments from the pulpit at St. Patrick's, it was the most logical site for a protest.

Other proposals included picketing the Vatican's consulate to the United Nations and at offices of the Archdiocese and Catholic Charities throughout New York; gathering at a local airport to greet Egan upon his return from a Vatican meeting on sexually abusive priests; lobbying for an end to public funding of Catholic projects and the church's tax-exempt status; and even calling for authorities to prosecute Egan and other members of the church for criminal concealment, possibly under the federal RICO statute.



Mike Salinas

New York City Council member Christine Quinn at St. Patrick's protest.

After nearly three hours, the crowd voted on a specific action – a protest at St. Patrick's, but outside, rather than inside the sanctuary, during the 10:15 mass that Egan normally celebrates. After the vote was taken, the large crowd split into smaller groups to discuss strategies, with many longtime activists sharing their expertise with younger attendees, transforming a somewhat unruly group into a more cohesive unit.

'Another form of violence'

When protesters arrived outside the cathedral Sunday morning, dozens of uniformed officers kept most of them behind metal barricades, although a few were allowed to stand on the sidewalk in front of the cathedral, where they passed out informational handbills and politely urged churchgoers to support the protest. Inside, officials were taking no chances. Uniformed and undercover officers were stationed throughout, warily watching the throngs of tourists who meandered through – all entries had to be made through side doors – and patrolling the periphery, eyeing worshippers to see if any seemed likely to jump up and create a disturbance. A number of people wearing pink armbands, an emblem designed to evoke the attacks on gays in Nazi Germany, were shooed away from the church.

Egan chose not to celebrate his first post-Vatican meeting Mass at St. Patrick's, opting instead to stay out of Manhattan and preside over a mass in the Bronx, the city's northernmost borough. Clark, who is the rector of St. Patrick's, was to have delivered the homily, but a lesser-known functionary, Auxiliary Bishop William McCormick, filled that role instead, according to a woman at the cathedral's information desk. No mention was made of the protest, or the sex scandal, during the service.

When the service ended and the massive cathedral doors opened onto Fifth Avenue, many of the churchgoers saw the protesters for the first time. Many also saw the flyers for the first time, explaining what the protest was about. On the other side, the flyer bore the now-famous photo of firefighters removing FDNY Chaplain Father Mychal Judge's lifeless body from the rubble of the World Trade Center, under the headline "Priest. Hero. Gay."

Several notable attendees then spoke out against the church's tactics at a sidewalk press conference. Reporters from print and broadcast media fought for position in the pouring rain as Council member Quinn described the current campaign of demonizing gays as "another form of violence," and Dr. Jack Drescher of the American Psychiatric Association rebutted Clark's contention that gays and lesbians are "disordered."

"Recent claims that homosexuality is a disorder is not guided by rigorous scientific or psychiatric research, but by forces opposed to full civil rights for gay men and lesbians," Drescher said as reporters scribbled notes. "As a scientific organization, APA today once again affirms its 1973 position that homosexuality per se is not a diagnosable mental disorder."

Unlike pedophilia and denial. ▼

Catholic Church

◀ page 1

cally, San Francisco Archbishop William Levada is doing a good job of ministering to gays and lesbians within the constraints imposed by the Vatican – given that church doctrine says the practice of homosexuality is a sin.

"He let's us do our thing," Hopke said. But Hopke, like others in the congregation, insisted that lay involvement is crucial to finding successful solutions to the scandals and developing policy which makes a place for gays and lesbians in the Catholic Church. "Lay people are the church," he said. "The bishops are the servants of the parishioners."

As the cardinals were leaving Rome last week after their meeting with the pope, they issued a statement that stopped short of setting a specific policy for dealing with sex offenders, refused to adopt a "one strike and you're out policy" and, to the disappointment of many church leaders, the cardinals also dropped a section which would have called for establishing boards composed mainly of lay people to review complaints against priests.

Here in San Francisco, the archdiocese established such a board last year, composed of four lay people, a nun, and a priest, to look at allegations of sexual contact between minors and clergy, according to spokesman Maurice Healy. He said that the San Francisco Archdiocese also has a policy, which conforms to state law, that requires that "any credible suspicions" be reported to police or the child protective agency.

Healy also said that the San Francisco Archdiocese is cooperating with the San Francisco District Attorney's office on past cases of suspected abuse and has agreed to provide information on alleged abuses dating back as far as 75 years.

"Before this is over, there will be a way for laity to speak on this issue," Healy said.

But bringing the need for national accountability to the attention of Rome and altering the Catholic Church's top-down management structure may, in the end, come from that particularly American innovation – the lawsuit. As cases of abuse come to light, more victims are finding the courage to come forward, and are hiring lawyers to file lawsuits. Several firms around the country specialize in pursuing sex abuse cases against churches and are deluged with new clients. Most of the settlements in those cases are kept confidential, so it is difficult to calculate how much they amount to, but insurance industry executives have been quoted as saying that the total settlements could run as high as $1 billion.

Of this, Most Holy Redeemer parishioner Hopke said, "Until it became a legal issue, they swept it under the rug. If these dioceses go broke, then they'll put a more appropriate system into practice."

But Father Donal Godfrey, a Jesuit priest who is in residence at Most Holy Redeemer, said that most of all he would "like to see bishops and cardinals and the pope talking with laity. Maybe out of this, healing and reconciliation might begin." ▼

Open Hand

◀ page 1

charge.

In the current fiscal year ending June 30, the agency had a $9 million budget. It will have provided 200,000 home-delivered meals for HIV/AIDS clients and another 85,000 for homebound critically ill clients. It is estimating a 100 percent increase in those meals for next year, projecting it will serve 380,000 meals to HIV/AIDS clients and another 142,000 meals to its other clients.

At the same time, the agency's costs for food, cooking, packaging, and delivering its meals have risen dramatically. And its government funding has already been reduced for next year by $150,000.

"Our Ryan White funding is being cut by 6 percent, that is about $50,000 next year. That is a lot of meals," said Nolan.

Even though financial donations from the private sector remain strong, the agency cannot keep up with demand for its services.

"Our fundraising this fiscal year has been very strong. We made all of our original projections in every category," said Bill Ambrunn, the agency's director of major gifts and planned giving. "I believe it is one of the best years we've ever had."

"It is like the perfect storm: we keep seeing more clients but with the same resources that we've had," added Nolan.

The agency could have scaled back its services, adopted a waiting list, or begun charging for its services. But Nolan said that just was not an option.

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AIDS Vaccine Rides face lawsuit

by Katie Zak Szymanski

Pallotta Teamworks, the for-profit producers of AIDS and cancer rides and walks across the country, has encountered yet another challenge to the way it raises money for charity.

Fresh from a legal battle stemming from disputes around the money distributed by California AIDS Ride, Pallotta is now being sued for its low returns to AIDS research centers after its AIDS Vaccine Rides.

The class action lawsuit was filed by Mark Cloutier, executive director of San Francisco's Continuum, an HIV/AIDS health and services center in the Tenderloin. The suit charges Pallotta with unfair business practices for misrepresenting how much of the money they raise actually goes to finding an AIDS vaccine.

Cloutier, who took part in last year's Alaska ride, charges that Pallotta distributed less than one-third of the money raised to research centers that were beneficiaries of four Vaccine Rides in the last two years. The suit seeks a return of the funds raised and redistribution to the UCLA AIDS Institute, New York's Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center, and Atlanta's Emory Vaccine Research Center.

"As someone who rode in the last AIDS Vaccine Ride I began to see a lot of evidence of marketing for Pallotta Teamworks during the ride, and I became increasingly concerned about how much money was going for marketing and promotion and how much actually might be getting to the research centers," Cloutier told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "And then if you look at Pallotta's Web site, by their own admission, marketing ate up a large percentage of the profits. So I decided to take action."

According to the Web site, the 2000 and 2001 AIDS Vaccine Rides raised more than $28 million, with $8.1 million going to charities, and $19.6 million going toward marketing and expenses. More than $1 million was billed as a production fee.

But Pallotta spokeswoman Lisa Cohen said that the lawsuit had no merit because the company is always up front about its expenses and percentages distributed to beneficiaries.

"We go out of our way not to guarantee a percentage of donor dollars; we don't know how many riders we'll have or what they'll raise, so we're disappointed about the suit," said Cohen. "We've always been forthcoming about the percentages and the bottom line is we hope this lawsuit doesn't affect our riders and in turn harm innocent people with HIV/AIDS."

Last month, Pallotta announced the withdrawal of New York's Aaron Diamond Center, one of its Vaccine Ride beneficiaries, which prompted the company to cancel its Alaska and Montana rides for 2002. In that announcement, Pallotta blamed poor fundraising for the dismal returns to charities. Other vaccine events, said Cohen, will go on as planned, including a Canadian ride August 28-September 1, a European ride June 30-July 6, and a vaccine walk through New York July 19-21.

Cloutier's lawsuit, filed in San Francisco Superior Court, seeks to represent all riders who participated in the Vaccine Rides from 2000-2001. It also hopes to secure an injunction to prevent Pallotta from continuing the practices deemed unfair.

"I am concerned about the general environment of fundraising," said Cloutier. "At a time when there's evidence of donor fatigue and the demands are outstripping the financial means, we need to have a very fair and transparent environment for fundraising."

The suit is in the discovery stages and no court dates have yet been set.

In January, Pallotta was in court to seek an injunction against the newly-formed AIDS/LifeCycle, a bike-a-thon set up by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center, former California AIDS Ride beneficiaries who severed ties with Pallotta's event. The injunction was denied, and this year, the two rides will compete for funds for HIV/AIDS service organizations. ▼

Million Marijuana March this Saturday

by Liz Highleyman

On Saturday, May 4, proponents of marijuana and industrial hemp law reform will gather in cities throughout the world for the annual Million Marijuana March.

San Francisco's Cannabis Freedom Day festival will take place at United Nations Plaza from noon to 6 p.m., with a Pot Pride Parade kicking off at (when else?) 4:20 pm. The march will take a loop route that goes around Union Square and through part of the Mission.

This year's event will include three stages, one for bands and speakers, one for a "cannabis cabaret" with singers and poets, and one for DJs and electronic music. The festival will also feature information booths, exhibits, and crafts.

Scheduled speakers include San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan, Supervisors Matt Gonzalez and Mark Leno, Dale Gieringer of California NORML, and medical cannabis club directors Wayne Justmann and Lynette Shaw. Several medical marijuana patients will also give testimonials.

Organizers said the rally will "demonstrate to the federal government that San Francisco is at the epicenter of resistance to the DEA's fanatical war on cannabis and its many uses: medical, agricultural, and industrial."

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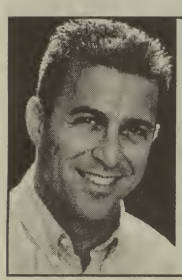
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Transgender marriage issues in light of Kansas decision

by Shannon Minter, Legal Director, National Center for Lesbian Rights

The following is an occasional column compiled by the Transgender Law Project that answers basic legal questions of interest to San Francisco's transgender, intersex, gender-variant, and genderqueer communities.

Q: I recently heard that a transgender woman wasn't allowed to get married in Kansas. Is that true? If I'm a transman, can I marry a woman in California?

A: Thanks for your question. This is one of the questions I'm asked most frequently. The short answer is that the Kansas Supreme Court recently invalidated the marriage of a transgender woman, but that decision does not have any effect here in California. In California, the law permits transgender people to change their legal gender. In addition, marriages involving transgender people have been upheld by a number of trial courts in California.

Nonetheless, even in a non-discriminatory jurisdiction such as California, it is a good idea to take extra steps to protect your relationship in the event anyone attempted to challenge the validity of your marriage. It is worth taking a minute to lay out what happened in Kansas before addressing the very different legal situation for transgender people in California. I will conclude by suggesting some steps that transgender people can take to protect our relationships.



Gardiner v. Gardiner

J'Noel Gardiner is transsexual and completed sex-reassignment many years ago. She married Marshall Gardiner in Kansas in 1998. She and her husband continued to live in Kansas until his death about a year later. Unfortunately, Marshall died without a will. Normally, when one spouse dies without a will, the surviving spouse inherits the estate. In this case, however, Marshall's son, Joe, filed a lawsuit attacking J'Noel's right to inherit her husband's estate.

The son argued that J'Noel's marriage to his father was void because she was born male and because, in his view, it is not possible to change one's sex. He argued that her marriage to his father should be considered a same-sex union and therefore invalid under a Kansas law forbidding same-sex marriages. J'Noel defended against the suit by arguing that she is a woman. She pointed out that she had changed her legal documents, completed the medical process of sex-reassignment (including sex-reassignment surgery), and lived her life as a woman for many years. Unfortunately, in an illogical and unprincipled ruling, the Kansas Supreme Court agreed with the son. The court held, "[a] post-operative male-to-female transsexual is not a woman within the meaning of [Kansas] statutes and cannot validly marry another man."

Issues in California

The only good thing about the Gardiner decision for transgender people in California is that it did

next page ▶

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LGBT activists honored at Felipa Awards

by Katie Zak Szymanski

As Americans still strive for protections for LGBT people, it can be difficult to remember that many citizens of other countries have it far worse when it comes to basic rights and freedoms. And when progress happens in such a country, it is often because of individuals or groups willing to sacrifice their own safety for the greater good.

In recognition of such people, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission will present its annual Felipa Awards on Monday, May 6. Named in honor of Felipa de Souza, a Brazilian woman convicted and tortured by the Portuguese Inquisition in 1591 for having sexual relationships with other women, the awards honor organizations and individuals that have made significant contributions toward securing the human rights of all people subject to discrimination or abuse on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or HIV status.

This year's honorees include representatives of four countries. Colombian residents Marta Lucía Tamayo Rincón, Marta Lucía Álvarez Giraldo, and Alba Nelly Montoya all played pivotal roles in helping to secure same-sex conjugal visitation rights for prisoners. Chinese writer and artist Cui Zi En caused a firestorm when he published *Peach Lip*, the first gay novel in modern China, and he was the first gay man to come out on Chinese television. Egyptian resident Maher Sabry wrote and directed *The Harem*, the first play publicly presented in Egypt that addressed male and female homosexuality, and he also persuaded regional human rights groups to represent the men arrested and persecuted in the high-profile sodomy cases. And Brazilian Elizabeth Calvet, who will receive a posthumous award, was an activist in the women's, lesbian, and black movements and a founder and organizer of many groups for women.

The Felipa Awards presentation runs from 6-9 p.m. and will be held at Brava! for Women in the Arts, 2781 24th Street, in San Francisco. Hors d'oeuvres, wine, and other beverages will be served. Tickets start at $100 each and proceeds benefit IGLHRC's work on behalf of LGBT people all over the world.

For more information, visit www.iglhrc.org or call (415) 255-8680. ▼

Ex-DPH researcher reprimanded for faulty data

by Cynthia Laird

A former researcher for the San Francisco Department of Public Health was formally reprimanded by federal officials last month as a result of an investigation that found he had falsified data in a national study of safe sex counseling.

Officials at DPH emphasized that it was an isolated incident and that since the false data was discovered early in the study, it did not compromise the validity of the study. The study, which is not yet concluded, assesses the effects of intensive counseling on risky sexual behavior and HIV transmission among gay and bisexual men. It is conducted jointly with the National Institutes of Health and involves more than 4,000 men nationwide.

The former DPH employee, Joao Carlos deSales, switched randomized assignments on four pairs of subjects between April and September 1999, then altered research records to conceal his conduct, investigators said. He was terminated in late August 2000.

"We were monitoring charts and found discrepancies," Dr. Susan Buchbinder, director of HIV research, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "Then we saw a pattern of records falsified and covered up."

An investigation was launched and the falsified data was reported, Buchbinder added.

Buchbinder said such an incident had not happened before. "It's an isolated incident. It involved eight sets of records and did not damage the integrity of the study."

Because the study involves federal funding, DPH had to submit its findings to the federal Office of Research Integrity, which filed its report with the Federal Register last month.

According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the Office of Research Integrity said deSales had agreed to several stipulations over the next three years, including being supervised in any Public Health Service-supported research, excluding himself from serving in an advisory capacity to the PHS, and not making any written public statements denying the findings of scientific misconduct. ▼

TG marriage

◀ previous page

not happen here. The Gardiner decision has no impact on California residents who were married in California. Based on the number of calls I have received in the last five years, there are many transgender people here in California who marry after undergoing sex-reassignment. There are also a number of transgender people who marry before coming out as transgender, and who stay married to their partner after undergoing sex-reassignment. I will discuss these two situations separately.

Marriage after transition – California law is generally very supportive of transgender people. Both the Legislature and the courts have recognized that transsexualism is a legitimate medical condition, and that transsexual people should be accommodated and recognized as legal members of their reassigned gender. As a result, transgender people are generally able to obtain identification that reflects their true gender – including obtaining a marriage license and entering into a legal civil marriage. Unfortunately, California does not yet permit persons of the same gender to marry, so this ability is currently restricted to transgender people who wish to marry someone of the opposite gender. For more information about the mechanics of marriage in California, please contact our office.

Marriage before transition – A number of transgender people marry before coming out as transgender. When one of the spouses in an existing marriage realizes that he or she is transgender and undergoes sex-reassignment, the couple may divorce, or they may choose to stay together. Contrary to what some people might think, the marriage is not automatically invalidated simply because the two spouses are now of the same gender. Although two people of the same gender are not yet able to enter into a legal marriage in California, there is nothing in California law that prohibits the different situation of two people who marry while they are of different genders and then later become a same-gender couple. Generally speaking, only dissolution by the parties or the death of one party can end a marriage. Based on these general legal principles, marriages in which one spouse transitions continue to be valid.

Challenges to our marriages – Although protecting yourself against the possibility of a legal challenge to your marriage is important, it is also important to remember that most married couples never have to prove the validity of their marriage. While couples that include a transgender person may have to do so with more frequency, it is still an uncommon experience. Anecdotally, the majority of challenges to the validity of our marriages happen either at the time of divorce or when one spouse dies and the other tries to claim a spousal benefit (such as an inheritance or pension benefit, for instance). Challenges also sometimes arise when the couple tries to access a benefit during the marriage (such as health coverage). In most cases, however, transgender people who marry do so without ever encountering any problems.

Protecting our relationships

Transgender people who have entered into a legal civil marriage, regardless of whether they did so before or after transition, are of course entitled to the same rights and benefits as any other married person. If you are in this situation, you should not hesitate to exercise your rights as legal spouses, whether that be the right to file married tax returns, the right to apply for spousal benefits, or the right to have or adopt children as a married couple. At the same time, however, it is also important to create a safety net in the event that the validity of the marriage is challenged.

At a minimum, a transgender person who is married should have: (1) a last will and testament for both spouses; (2) financial and medical powers of attorney in which each spouse designates either the other spouse or another trusted person to be his or her legal agent in the event of incapacitation; and (3) a written personal relationship agreement including a detailed account of each spouse's rights and responsibilities with regard to finances, property, support, children, and any other issues that are important to the couple.

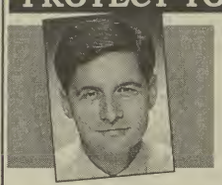
The agreement should also include an acknowledgment that the non-transgender partner is aware that his or her spouse is transgender, to avoid any later claims of fraud or deception. Ideally, the couple should draft those documents with assistance from an attorney and supplement them with any other legal planning documents that are appropriate for their specific circumstances.

The information provided in this column is not intended as a substitute for legal advice. If you have a legal question about your specific circumstances, please contact an attorney or the appropriate government agency. ▼

The Transgender Law Project is co-sponsored by the National Center for Lesbian Rights and the Pride Law Fund.

If you have questions about gender identity discrimination or are a transgender, intersex, gender-variant, and/or genderqueer person with other legal questions, please feel free to contact the project's coordinator and Tom Steel Fellow, Chris Daley, at (415) 392-6257 ext. 308 or e-mail daley@nclrights.org. You can request a Spanish-language pamphlet containing this same information by contacting the Transgender Law Project.

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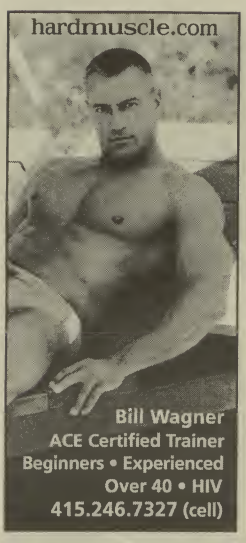
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KO corral

by Jim Provenzano

To take a first glance at Anthy Hadjimarkos, you wouldn't think "boxer." But looks can be deceiving.

A winner of the regional Golden Gloves in 2001, Hadjimarkos represents the next generation of female fighters, as trained and mentored by Bay Area resident and four-time champion Gina "Boom Boom" Guidi.

Hadjimarkos will fight with Guidi in her corner at the 70th annual Golden Gloves competition, May 1 through 4, at San Francisco's Cow Palace. Women's matches will take place Thursday May 2, with finals on Saturday, May 4.

This year's Golden Gloves will pit 110 Northern California fighters from 37 boxing clubs, most of them men, against one another for a chance to advance to regional, state and ultimately national titles.

Winners will go on to the regional Golden Gloves competition at Fairtex Gym in Daly City, May 18; the state competition in Los Angeles on June 1; and the national competition in Denver, Colorado, June 15-22.

To prepare for these goals, Hadjimarkos has been training at Kings Gym in Oakland and the spacious Bay Club in San Francisco's North Beach District, where Guidi is a popular trainer.

Hadjimarkos is just one of many women now involved with boxing, once thought to be a men's-only sport. A team-sport athlete as a child, Hadjimarkos still felt for many years that the perfect sport for her was yet undiscovered. When she was 20, a friend suggested boxing, a field Hadjimarkos had not even considered, as she thought (like many) that women were not welcome in the ring.

As she learned more about women's boxing, she found a role model and personal hero in Guidi, a world champion boxer and the subject of the acclaimed documentary film *Red Rain*.

As an amateur, Guidi won the USA BoxOffs in California in addition to a Golden Gloves Championship, and held an undefeated amateur record of 12-0-0 9 KOs. Turning professional in 1995, she held a record of 16-1-1 (16 wins, one loss, and one draw) with six knockouts. She won four championship titles, three of them being world titles.

Guidi was the first female boxer to be honored by the Northern California Veteran Boxers' Association for Outstanding Achievement, and the first to be honored twice by that organization.

Hadjimarkos has been training for two years, and hopes to follow in Guidi's footsteps. For her Greek family in San Ramon, however, "It's been difficult," she admitted.

"My dad has never approved of it, but when he was young, he wanted to play soccer, but his family didn't approve of that."

"My mom is okay, but she won't come to see me fight." Nevertheless, she hopes to balance the love of her sport to offset her family's doubts. "I always went off and did my own thing anyway."

Hadjimarkos has competed in co-ed tournaments, and won the regional competition at the Golden Gloves in 2001. She fights as a 112-lb. superflyweight, and currently holds an amateur record of one win and one loss. In addition to a regular training regimen, the East Bay resident also attends Cogswell Polytechnic College, where she is working toward a bachelor's degree in 3-D modeling and digital illustration.

Does going against tradition give more meaning to her training?

"I train a little harder," she said. "I always train really hard before any competition. I had a lot of fights set up this summer, but they fell through."

Part of the problem of being a good fighter is actually arranging competitions after you've become known.

"I haven't had that many fights," said Hadjimarkos. "But with Gina as my trainer, people have seen me and talk about it."

And some might be talking about the fact that Hadjimarkos, like Guidi, is out as a lesbian. Yet it doesn't phase her.



Jim Provenzano

Out in the ring: Anthy Hadjimarkos prepares for the Golden Gloves this weekend.

"We try not to talk about me that much, but that I can fight. That might be part of the reason why they cancel. They get scared or whatever."

As to watching other competitors, "I like to watch smaller fights," she said. "A lot of the talent I think, is more in the quicker movements of lighter weights."

When asked about films and TV, Hadjimarkos agrees that the media portrayal of women boxers has also been less than realistic. Like others, Hadjimarkos was less than impressed with the film *Girlfight*.

"I think some of the shots were interesting, but it was outrageous," she said. "A girl is not gonna be fighting a guy in a tournament. I thought it was annoying to bring in the boyfriend."

Does her decision to be out affect her take on the sport?

"It's definitely an issue," she said. "All of the women in the sport have issues. There are boxers that become publicly known, or act straight in public, even though they're lesbians. It's really sad, because there's so much more talent out there that won't be recognized in public."

She certainly doesn't want to be judged by "who you are versus how good you are. I don't think your sexuality should have anything to do with your performance."

She also has to deal with the male heterosexual focus on women boxers that furthers the distance between reality. "That is not paying attention to whether I have good form or get hits in."

At the Golden Gloves last year, Hadjimarkos had no competition in her weight class, so she just moved on to the regionals. "I wanted to fight for the state title. I'm really hoping there'll be more competition this year."

Does she feel pressure training in a sport that still remains shy of female competitors? "I see more women in the gym, but I don't see women training to compete."

Without a known community of women boxers organizing, there remains little visible presence outside a few brave athletes.

Despite what some call large ranks of lesbians in the sport, Gay Games has yet to permit the return of boxing to its exhibition events. After an exhibition match at an early Games, a Gay Games II exhibition match was canceled, despite the hopes of some, including Guidi. Since then, no group of GLBT boxers has succeeded in convincing the Federation of Gay Games or bidding cities to add it as a sport.

This leaves out lesbian and gay boxers on their own. After this weekend's Golden Gloves tournament at the Cow Palace, Hadjimarkos hopes to win the national title. At larger competitions, she's noticed the diverse array of competitors.

"Other countries have more women boxers, like Turkey. India has about 600 women boxers. I have no idea how that happened."

Hadjimarkos recently visited Turkey, where one woman took a national prize. "It's amazing that a woman in a Muslim country was even allowed to compete."

Although her home country of Greece is very conservative, she hopes to some day compete there. "I would like to be a hero to Greek people, if they ever open up boxing to women at the Olympics.

"That would be my dream; to go there, be with my people and be myself, and let them see a woman in an empowered situation."

The 70th Annual Golden Gloves competition will be held May 1-4, at the Cow Palace in San Francisco. Tickets: $5-15 (through Friday), $7-$20 for Saturday's finals. Matches start at 7 p.m. (415) 584-9443.

Team SF shindig

Make plans to attend the Team San Francisco kick-off party and fundraiser in the Ceremonial (top floor) Room of the LGBT Community Center (Market Street at Octavia) on May 16 from 6-9 p.m. Enjoy copious snacks, a no-host bar, and entertainment. Your $15-$20 donation will go to the Athlete's Assistance Fund, which has provided monetary assistance to athletes who otherwise would not be able to participate in the Games. Help celebrate the tradition of the Gay Games and the athletes of Team San Francisco, where the Games began 20 years ago. Come and meet other athletes. There will also be lots of information on the Games, an athletes fashion show where you can see some of your favorite jocks strut their stuff, and special guests. ▼

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Gender protections passed in two cities

by Katie Zak Szymanski

Transgender and gender-variant individuals have two reasons to feel a little more equal in America, as the cities of both New York and Tacoma, Washington last week passed ordinances protecting people from discrimination on the basis of gender identity.

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg signed that city's measure into law on Tuesday, April 30, less than one week after the City Council passed the measure 45-5. New York is now the 42nd municipality to extend protections on the basis of gender identity, and because of its large population (about 8 million) it is believed the law will have a powerful effect on both policy and people.

"It's brilliant," said San Francisco transgender advocate Chris Daley, a staff attorney at the National Center for Lesbian Rights. "New York is arguably now the jurisdiction that protects the most people based on gender identity. I certainly hope this law leads to statewide protection as well."

It is estimated that 75 percent of New York state's transgender population lives in the city, but the law's careful choice of the term "gender identity" should extend protections to people of all sexualities and genders, from tomboys to transsexuals. The law prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodation, and other areas of everyday life.

"Gender identity was created as a term so that it can be used broadly to encompass as many folks as possible," noted Daley.

New York's law was pushed through with the help of the Empire State Pride Agenda and the New York Association for Gender Rights Advocacy, and supportive City Council members Bill Perkins, Margarita Lopez, Christine Quinn, and Phil Reed, all Democrats.

At Tuesday's bill signing, Bloomberg, a Republican, purposely used more than 20 pens for his signature so that all advocates in attendance could have a souvenir of the event. It was only the second bill signing ceremony of Bloomberg's mayoral career.

"I was always taught that everyone is equal," said Bloomberg. "I do this today because it is right."

On the opposite coast, the Tacoma City Council voted 8-1 on April 23 to add sexual orientation and gender identity to the city's anti-discrimination ordinance.

This is the second time the City Council approved this addition, but voters in 1989 repealed the additions, and according to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, there is speculation that opponents may attempt once again to put it before the voters.

Both the Tacoma and New York efforts will remain, however, "part of a growing trend where state and local governments increasingly recognize the need to address discrimination based on gender identity," according to the Human Rights Campaign. ▼

Global AIDS fund awards first grants

by Liz Highleyman

On Thursday, April 25, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria awarded its first grants to help poor countries combat the deadly diseases. The announcement was made at the conclusion of the fund's board meeting in New York City.

In this first round of funding, $378 million was distributed to 40 programs in 31 countries. More than 50 percent of the money will fund projects in Africa, the continent hardest hit by AIDS. Haiti, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe received the largest grants. Eighteen additional proposals were slated for fast-track approval, which will bring the total amount awarded to $616 million. Sixty percent of funding will go to HIV/AIDS programs, 16 percent for tuberculosis, 10 percent for malaria, and 15 percent for programs addressing two or three of the diseases.

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan called for the creation of the global fund in April 2001, estimating that it would require $7-10 billion dollars. Currently the fund has received pledges totaling nearly $2 billion dollars, with about $70 million currently available.

The global fund's board met for the first time in January and issued a request for grant proposals. The board is composed of representatives from non-governmental organizations, private foundations, corporations, and donor countries. UNAIDS, the World Health Organization, and the World Bank hold non-voting seats.

Some 300 applications were received by March. Successful applicants were required to develop initiatives that draw on the combined expertise of government, NGO, and private sector stakeholders, and that do not duplicate existing programs.

Advocates and NGO officials have criticized wealthy countries, in particular the U.S., for donating too little. President Bush has pledged $300 million for fiscal year 2002 and $200 million for 2003. ▼

Open Hand

◀ page 14

"We could have chopped it from the food budget. One thing we did here years ago was that our clients, instead of having both meals and groceries, had to choose," said Nolan. "I thought about it. But we wanted to offer our full services to everybody."

However, the agency's clients have been impacted by the belt tightening. Now when clients come for groceries, they are given one packed bag and one bag they pack themselves.

"Some clients have been pretty upset about it. Some like it, some hate it," said Paul. "They had to make an adjustment. It is good they don't have to make any more adjustments."

Although upset to see their coworkers leave and their own salaries reduced, many staffers said they support Nolan's decision to hold the agency's services harmless.

"I think people have very mixed emotions. As we are saying goodbye to people, they don't want to see people leave. But they don't want to scale back on client services," said Ambrunn. "People know it is hard to do, but it is hard to watch."

For many staffers, their own suffering is tempered by seeing what their clients face daily.

"We focus on a very clear mission. This is about food. Food is really clean, clear, and concrete. You can see the effects everyday on our clients. They come in here to get their nourishment," said Jim Illig, the agency's director of government relations, who has had his hours reduced. "We have 800 active volunteers doing this work. That is uplifting. This is a rocky time, but I don't think people are going to jump ship."

To steady its course, the agency is hoping the community will continue to be supportive and that government agencies will not make further cuts into its funding. Volunteers are being asked to take over some of the responsibilities of the vacant positions, and the paid staff is now doubling up on duties.

"Any positive words our way would be helpful at this point. We are all struggling through this," said Paul. "Even if someone says 'Have a nice day' we will appreciate it."

To volunteer or make a donation to Project Open Hand, call (415) 447-2300. ▼

Pot march

◀ page 15

This year's pot rally follows in the wake of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws' conference in San Francisco earlier this month and a recent federal hearing to decide the fate of the Oakland Cannabis Buyers Cooperative and other local medical marijuana dispensaries.

The first Million Marijuana March took place in New York City in 1998. The event has since grown to encompass cities on five continents. Marches and rallies are scheduled for the same day in Amsterdam, Berlin, Buenos Aires, Copenhagen, Jerusalem, Johannesburg, London, Mexico City, Moscow, Paris, Prague, and Rome, as well as in many smaller cities and towns. ▼

For more information on the San Francisco festival, visit www.thehempevolution.org. For other events, see www.millionmarijuanamarch.org.

LEGAL NOTICES

City and County of San Francisco

YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) is sponsoring a Youth Environmental Summit that will put San Francisco's high school students in the spotlight. Local students will showcase water conservation and water pollution prevention projects that they have created. Participating schools are: John O'Connell, Balboa, Mission, Washington, Mercy and Thurgood Marshall High Schools. The summit's keynote speaker is Supervisor Matt Gonzalez of District 5.

The youth are required to submit a weekly report on their progress to their SFPUC mentor and then present their project's findings at the Environmental Summit.

The students' hard work will be rewarded with numerous prizes and recognition of their innovative works. The community at large is welcome to come out and support students at the Youth Summit, which will be held:

Friday, May 3, 2002 - 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM
Bayview Opera House
4705 - 3rd Street near Newcomb Ave., San Francisco, CA

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery is seeking site specific proposals for Construct 2, the 2nd Annual Installation Award and Exhibition. Construct 2 will be judged by renowned installation artist and educator Paul Kos, and Los Angeles-based writer and curator Julie Deamer.

Exhibition dates are October 23 to December 7, 2002. Artists may apply as individuals or as a collaborative team. Proposals must be for works that are site-specific, and should provide detailed information and sketches about how the project will be physically incorporated into the gallery space. Artists may propose an installation for the entire gallery space, or for one of its two exhibition areas (north and south). Proposals for media installations will be accepted, but the artist will be responsible for providing technical equipment not owned by the gallery, and support services to maintain the installation*. A gallery floor plan is posted at http://sfac.sfsu.edu/gallery/index.html.

*Contact Natasha Garcia-Lomas, Gallery Manager, at (415) 554-6080, or gallery@thecity.sfsu.edu for further information. Note that prior to notification of their selection, no guarantee can be made to applicants that technical equipment will be made available to them.

Applications must be received in the Arts Commission office by 5:00 p.m. May 31, 2002 or be postmarked no later than May 31, 2002. Deliver or mail to: Construct 2, SF Arts Commission Gallery, 25 Van Ness Ave., Suite 240, San Francisco, CA 94102. Late applications will not be considered.

TOILET AND LEAD-FREE FAUCET SALES

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) is selling high quality, lead-free kitchen faucets and ultra-low toilets to owners of single-family homes and/or multifamily buildings at the discounted price of $10.00 each.

The ultra-low flow toilet and lead-free faucet sale will be held:
Saturday, May 11, 2002 from 8: AM to 1 PM
John O'Connell High School
2355 Folsom St. near 19th St., San Francisco, CA
Toilets and faucets must be purchased by the owner or the tenant listed on the water bill (bring water bill and picture ID as proof).

The City and County of San Francisco encourages public outreach. Articles are translated into several languages to provide better public access. The newspaper makes every effort to translate the articles of general interest correctly. No liability is assumed by the City and County of San Francisco or the newspapers for errors and omissions.

STATEMENT FILE NO.255782
The following person(s) are doing business as: Racing Garage. 1118 Howard Strreet, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Eric Koon Chan and Jeffrey Ming Lee. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/06/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/03/2002.
APRIL 11, 18, 25, MAY 2, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.256617
The following person(s) are doing business as: Fleur't. 2550 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jonathan Rachman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 4/15/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/05/2002.
APRIL 11, 18, 25, MAY 2, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.256614
The following person(s) are doing business as: The Exiles. 174 Chattanooga Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an unincorporated association other than a partnership signed Justine Stanis. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/04/2002.
APRIL 11, 18, 25, MAY 2, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.256554
The following person(s) are doing business as: Michael T. Barrett L.AC. 2120 Market Street #1, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Michael T. Barrett. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 1, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/03/2002.
APRIL 11, 18, 25, MAY 2, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.256603
The following person(s) are doing business as: Suzi's Bloomers. 52 Baltimore Way, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed E. Sue Kennedy. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 3, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/04/2002.
APRIL 11, 18, 25, MAY 2, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.256649
The following person(s) are doing business as: Grand Central Station Antiques. 1632 Market Street #A, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Robert McCartney. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 10, 1990. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/05/2002.
APRIL 11, 18, 25, MAY 2, 2002

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 212583
The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: The Exiles. Located at: 1350 Shotwell Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110-4624. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: March 25, 1997.
This business was conducted by: Unincorporated Association other than a partnership: Karen L. Kircher
APRIL 11, 18, 25, MAY 2, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.02-540212
In the Matter of the Application of Margaret Hurst Kennerly. For change of Name. The application of Margaret Hurst Kennerly for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Margaret Hurst Kennerly has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Margaret Hurst Cliver. Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 10th day of June, 2002 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
APRIL 11, 18, 25, MAY 2, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.02-540214
In the Matter of the Application of Kathryn Baird Szymanski. For change of Name. The application of Kathryn Baird Szymanski for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Kathryn Baird Szymanski has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Zakary Kathryn Baird Szymanski . Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 6th day of June, 2002 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
APRIL 11, 18, 25, MAY 2, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.256786
The following person(s) are doing business as: Keenan Design. 1366 Hayes Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed John Anthony Keenan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 4/11/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/11/2002.
APRIL 18, 25, MAY 2, 9, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256785
The following person(s) are doing business as: Hardwood Floor Complete. 431 Foerster, San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by an individual signed Peter Nguyen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 4/01/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/11/2002.
APRIL 18, 25, MAY 2, 9, 2002

LEGAL NOTICES

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING
SERVICES CITY COLLEGE
OF SAN FRANCISCO
CHINATOWN/NORTH BEACH CAMPUS

City College of San Francisco, Office of Facilities Planning & Construction, announces a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for complete multi-discipline, architectural/ engineering design services for the construction of the new Chinatown/North Beach Campus to be located on the northwest corner of Columbus Avenue and Washington Street, where Chinatown, North Beach, the Financial District and San Francisco's Jackson Square Historic District converge. The project will include the construction of a new building as well as the preservation, restoration and rehabilitation of the Colombo Building, an existing two-story designated historic structure to be incorporated into the design of the new campus. The project will contain a total of approximately 90,520 assignable square feet within a maximum of 140,000 gross square feet. The estimated project construction cost is approximately $52.0 million.

This project presents a unique opportunity for the selected architectural/engineering design firm(s)/team to serve the needs of a diverse community and to respond creatively to many challenging program and site issues. These include: the adaptive re-use, preservation, restoration and rehabilitation of the Colombo Building to be incorporated into the design of the new campus; the design of a new campus in an urban context within a limited building envelope on a site consisting of approximately 22,349 square feet (0.51 acre); the incorporation of energy efficient methods for heating, cooling and lighting and the use of sustainable and healthy building materials; and the incorporation of feng-shui into the design process.

The services to be provided by the prime consultant and their sub-consultants will include, but are not limited to: architectural design; preservation, restoration and adaptive re-use of an architecturally significant historic building; programming and planning; construction administration; engineering consulting services such as civil, electrical, mechanical, structural, and seismic strengthening of historic buildings; cost estimating; and scheduling. The expected duration of the service contract is five years, from preliminary planning through completion of project construction.

The selected architectural/ engineering design firm(s)/ team will be required to include a highly qualified preservation architect and an engineer with expertise in seismic strengthening of historic buildings, who will be responsible for the preservation, restoration and rehabilitation of the Colombo Building per The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring and Reconstructing Historic Buildings (Weeks and Grimmer, 1995) and for incorporating this designated historic structure into the overall project design.

The RFQ package will be available after March 20, 2002 and may be requested via fax only from:
Ms. Carolyn Robinson
FAX: (415) 239-3947
TEL: (415) 239-3055

A RFQ Orientation Meeting for interested firms/teams will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2002 at 3:00 pm, at the Auditorium of the San Francisco Community College District (District) Office, 33 Gough Street, San Francisco. Attendance is mandatory.

Project Site Visits - Colombo Building Tours are scheduled on April 24, 2002 and May 15, 2002 at 2 pm to help respondents become familiar with the Colombo Building. Attendees will meet on the northwest corner of Columbus Avenue and Washington Street.

The selection procedure consists of multiple steps: 1) screening of submittals, 2) first interview, 3) final interview with conceptual design presentation, and 4) Board approval. Respondents shall submit fourteen (14) copies of their qualification documents as specified in the RFQ package. All respondent documents must arrive at the Office of Facilities Planning & Construction, City College of San Francisco, 50 Phelan Avenue, Bungalow 601, San Francisco, CA 94112 prior to 12:00 Noon, Wednesday, June 26, 2002. Late and/or incomplete submissions will be deemed non-responsive and will not be considered.

SLBE POLICY ON CONSTRUCTION-RELATED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

It is the policy of the San Francisco Community College District to ensure full and equal business opportunity for all Small Local Business Enterprises (SLBEs) wishing to do business with the District. SLBE firms must be certified by the San Francisco Human Rights Commission (HRC) at the time proposals are submitted. Small, minority and women owned businesses are encouraged to take advantage of prime and sub-consultant contract opportunities made available through the SLBE program. The SLBE sub-consulting goal for this project will be set forth in the RFQ. The District strongly encourages San Francisco firms who are not certified by the HRC and wish to participate on this project as an SLBE firm to immediately begin the certification process. The HRC Certification Unit can be reached at (415) 252-2537.

05/02/02 CNS- 386226# BAY AREA REPORTER

STATEMENT FILE 256725
The following person(s) are doing business as: Body Manipulations. 3234 16th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Paul Stoll. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 4/01/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/08/2002.
APRIL 18, 25, MAY 2, 9, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256702
The following person(s) are doing business as: Metropolitan Retail Store. 1751 Market Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Eduardo Cervera. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/09/2002.
APRIL 18, 25, MAY 2, 9, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256713
The following person(s) are doing business as: Cigalou Cafe. 761 Beach Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jalal Heydari. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/09/2002.
APRIL 18, 25, MAY 2, 9, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256769
The following person(s) are doing business as: BPM Specialist. 1330 Stevenson Street #C306, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Roderick P. Respicio. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 10, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/10/2002.
APRIL 18, 25, MAY 2, 9, 2002

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 224613
The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Comm Link Plus. Located at: 1330 Stevenson Street #C306, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: July 13, 1998.
This business was conducted by: a individual: Roderick P. Respicio.
APRIL 18, 25, MAY 2, 9, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256884
The following person(s) are doing business as: My Sweet Pea. 253 Central Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Hector I. Tuesta. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 15, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/15/2002.
APRIL 25, MAY 2, 9, 16, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256951
The following person(s) are doing business as: The Dungeon. 2500 3rd Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed Shouman H. Shouman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/17/2002.
APRIL 25, MAY 2, 9, 16, 2002

LEGAL SERVICES

LAW OFFICES OF
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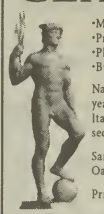
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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.02-540216
In the Matter of the Application of Hamidon Bin Hussin. For change of Name. The application of Hamidon Bin Hussin for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Hamidon Bin Hussin has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to David Kyle Brumlage. Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 10th day of June, 2002 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
APRIL 18, 25, MAY 2, 9, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256856
The following person(s) are doing business as: Dafuc Investments. 3910 23rd Street Apt. #5, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Tom Mubiru. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/15/2002.
APRIL 25, MAY 2, 9, 16, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256968
The following person(s) are doing business as: SMP, Inc. Standard Metal Products, Inc. 558 Bryant Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Kevin Blnkert, owner. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 01, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/17/2002.
APRIL 25, MAY 2, 9, 16, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.02-540218
In the Matter of the Application of Jennifer Lee Mullen, For change of Name. The application of Jennifer Lee Mullen for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jennifer Lee Mullen has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Lady Nigel Butterfly. Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 10th day of June, 2002 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
APRIL 25, MAY 2, 9, 16, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256937
The following person(s) are doing business as: Truevision Instruments. 4220 Cesar Chavez #211, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an general partnership signed Ralf Thomaier and Gudrun Isecke. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 15, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/17/2002.
APRIL 25, MAY 2, 9, 16, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256450
The following person(s) are doing business as: Running With Scissors Marketing And Design. 250 Clara Street #12, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed Terry P. Hemphill. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/01/2002.
APRIL 25, MAY 2, 9, 16, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.02-540228
In the Matter of the Application of Susan Elaine Virgil, For change of Name. The application of Susan Elaine Virgil for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Susan Elaine Virgil has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to - Suzanne Elaine Vigil. Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the ---18th day of June at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAY 2, 9, 16, 23, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256991
The following person(s) are doing business as: eConsult Small Business Services, Bear Consult. 90 Kissling Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Stefan R. Petersen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/18/2002.
APRIL 25, MAY 2, 9, 16, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256990
The following person(s) are doing business as: Rubbear. 1346 Judah Street #2, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual signed James E. Carter. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/18/2002.
APRIL 25, MAY 2, 9, 16, 2002

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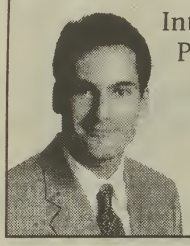
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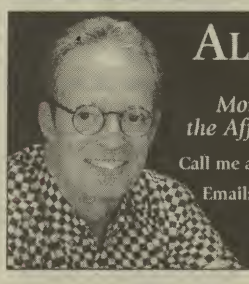
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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE 257001
The following person(s) are doing business as: S.F. City Living. 1438 Leavenworth Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Richard Moeller. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 18, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/18/2002.
MAY 2, 9, 16, 23, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 257267
The following person(s) are doing business as: TravelMaestros.com. 1642 Hyde Street, #2, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed David Wai Lau. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/29/2002.
MAY 2, 9, 16, 23, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256328
The following person(s) are doing business as: Blue Gacko Imports. 800 26th Avenue #5, San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual signed Ray Alan Meadows. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and . County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/27/2002.
APRIL 25, MAY 2, 9, 16, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 256919
The following person(s) are doing business as: figureplant. 2122 Bryant Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed David M. Frederickson and Beth A. Ahlstrand. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 27, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/16/2002.
APRIL 25, MAY 2, 9, 16, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.02-540211
In the Matter of the Application of Jacob Edward Argueta and Kayla Isabell Argueta, For change of Name. The application of Jacob Edward Argueta and Kayla Isabell Argueta for change of name, having been filed in Court, and It appearing from said application that Jacob Edward Argueta and Kayla Isabell Argueta has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jacob Edward Peake and Kayla Isabel Peake. Now therfore, It is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 4th day of June, 2002 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
APRIL 25, MAY 2, 9, 16, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.02-540235
In the Matter of the Application of Tracy Jean Griffin, For change of Name. The application of Tracy Jean Griffin for change of name, having been filed in Court, and It appearing from said application that Tracy Jean Griffin has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Cowen Jakub Conaghan. Now therfore, It is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 20th day of June, 2002 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
APRIL 25, MAY 2, 9, 16, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.255782
The following person(s) are doing business as: Racing Garage. 1118 Howard Strreet, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Eric Koon Chan and Jeffrey Ming Lee. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/06/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/03/2002.
APRIL 11, 18, 25, MAY 2, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.256617
The following person(s) are doing business as: Fleur't. 2550 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jonathan Rachman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 4/15/02. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/05/2002.
APRIL 11, 18, 25, MAY 2, 2002

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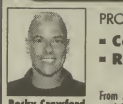
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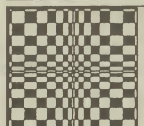
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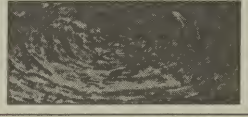
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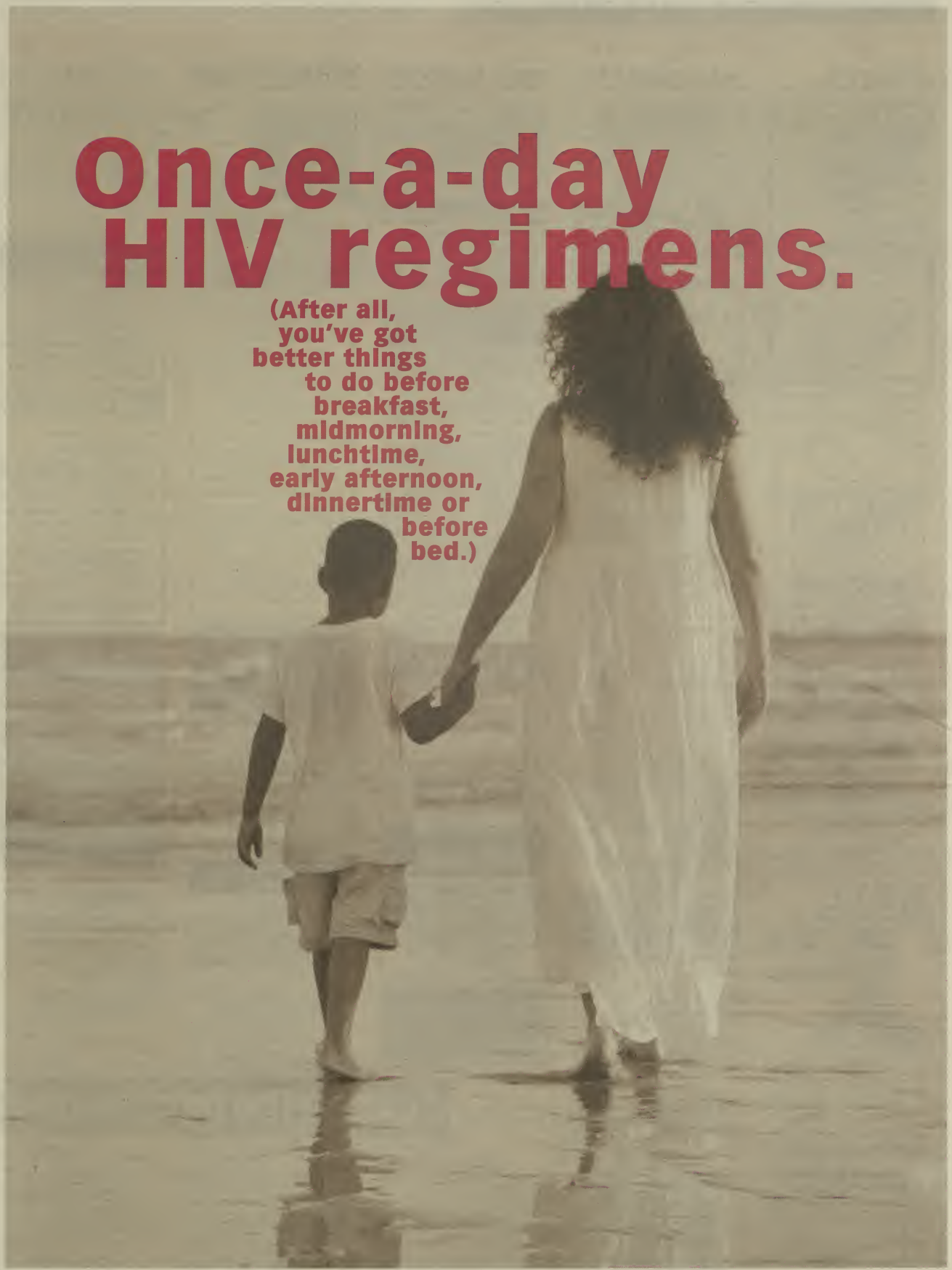
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Olympia the gem of the theatre
Dukakis plays the memory of a mother in ACT's 'For the Pleasure of Seeing Her...'
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Rhino season 2002-03
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BAY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 32 • No. 18 • 2 May 2002



Isaac Julien cracks the whip

His films and installations on view at Yerba Buena Center

by Glen Helfand

Isaac Julien works out of dynamic in-between places. The British maker of films and installations works a beautiful, fuzzy zone between film and art, between Britain and America, between practices of artist and educator, and, thematically, between S & M. And that's just the beginning. His work relates to ambiguous dialogues about racial, sexual and national identities. He's a filmmaker who has literally broken down the frame to create multiple-screen installations that reflect multiple viewpoints.

The serious-minded 42-year-old filmmaker seems to vehemently position himself in that different kind of margin. "I resist framing around me and my work," he says straight off in a phone interview from his office at Harvard, where he's taught film theory classes with heady titles like "The Post-Cinematic in Video Art." Though he's often claimed by queer and black audiences, there are actually multiple facets that can apply. "Mine is very much a dialogue across a number of disciplines," he says.

And cultures. "I see myself as a black Diasporian subject, in moving-image culture in globalized time."

San Franciscans can get a full dose of his complex, beautiful, widescope vision with *The Film Art of Isaac Julien*, a survey exhibition of cinematic installations, which opens at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts this Saturday, May 4. The show, organized by Bard Center for Curatorial Studies in New York State, includes a number of installations as well as static prints related to his moving images. A nearly full retrospective of Julien's films — including his well-known works like *Looking for Langston* and *Young Soul Rebels*, as well as shorter and more experimental projects — will be screened this June in the 26th SF International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, which

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Personal exposure

Greg Gorman's 'Just Between Us'

by John F. Karr

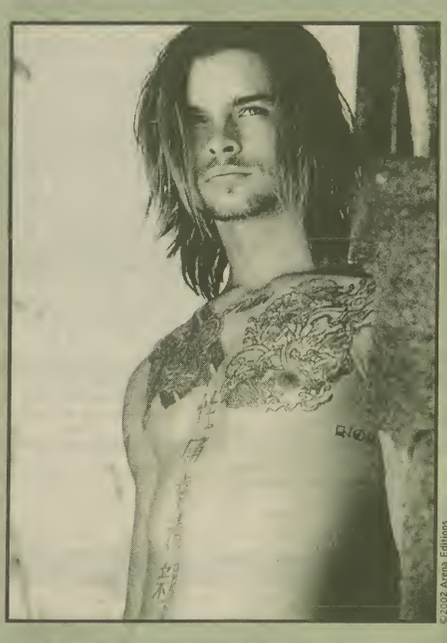
Popular photographer Greg Gorman has unwrapped more and more of his personal obsessions over the years. Each of his early books of celebrity portraits — two eponymous volumes, and then, particularly, *Inside Life* — included a few male nudes, and a sample of classic and provocative hustler portraiture. His last book, *As I See It*, took us closer into the photographer's personal life by dropping the celebs altogether for a collection of male nudes that was revealing, if not sexually explicit. Now, in *Just Between Us* (Arena Editions, $55), a lengthy study of a single model in 240 tritone plates, Gorman takes a plunge into what he would like to see as sexual portraiture.

While envisioning the deluge that's supposed to follow after, Gorman seems to have forgotten the deluge that has come before — work that combines fine art and sexuality by photographers both gay and not gay (I simply cannot assimilate the recent affirmation that Bruce Weber is, indeed, heterosexual.) Although *Just Between Us* adds hard-ons and every explicit (solo) sexual activity to Gorman's portfolio, I am saddened to find my response is the very gay Been There, Done That.

In the book's Foreword, Gorman claims that these are the photos (and this is nearly verbatim) that will overthrow the restrictions that have crippled the realm of male nude photography, erase the distinction between fine art and sexual photography, and overcome the restraint that inhibits artists due to viewers' prurience. The book's publicity further claims it is unfettered by convention and unmatched for its candor and sexuality. All true, perhaps, if your audience is the readership of *Vanity Fair*. But not at all true for those of us who live with the many popular but less mainstream artists who for some time now have photographically defined obsession and provided a tour of sexuality.

And isn't Robert Mapplethorpe mainstream? Many of these photos recreate, however unintentionally, classic Mapplethorpe poses and stylings. There's the erect cock jutting from an open fly; there are genitals on a headless torso, and, most peculiarly for one so self-proclaimedly obsessed, the calculated distancing. It shows in the printing technique, which is soothing. *Just Between Us* is sumptuously printed on thick and roughly

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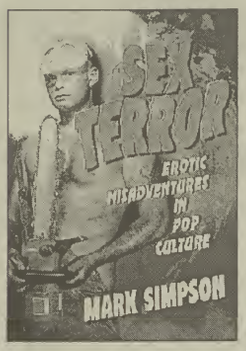
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OUT THERE

by Roberto Friedman and Surly Springtime

April showers may bring May flowers, but a UPS man in calf-length shorts brought *Sex Terror,* the new collection by *It's a Queer World* author **Mark Simpson**. It's a lot of nasty humor at our own gay expense, and for the sarcasm-impaired, the tart Brit adds a helpful subtitle, *Erotic Misadventures in Pop Culture* (Harrington Park Press).



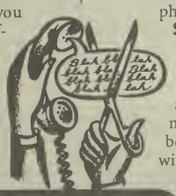
In-between reflections on the relative penis size of American presidents (**Nixon** "strutted around like the proud possessor of a real tonsil-teaser") and visits to LA hustler bars "jumping with hunky boys with rent to pay, in haircuts straight out of a **Matt Sterling** movie circa 1983 (perhaps that's what people are still watching in Idaho and Budapest)," we get celebrity reflections ("What Kind of a Man's Man Is **Guy Ritchie**?') and visits to a French bathhouse ("Blank eyes rake up and down my body as if considering it for lunch. It feels like I am an extra in a **George Romero** zombie movie, set in ancient Rome.")

Simpson is simply ruthless and not at all impressed by the rise and fall of gay culture. He laments the popularity of social kissing ("a chap you run into these days is likely to pucker up and give you a big, sloppy, girly kiss") and hugging ("there's always the gruesome conundrum of groin grazing.") He breaks down men's walks, such as the "Bodybuilder Bowl," which "hints that you still have something resembling testicles, despite your massive steroid abuse."

Really, what's a New Lad to do? Grouse some more, of course. "So many gay men's arses are not only flat but, like cats, without any cleavage at all," *pace* Mr. Simpson. "Call me uptight, but I'm a teensy bit turned off when a man's sphincter winks at you through his jeans and offers to buy you a drink."

Swan's way

From Annapolis, MD comes the welcome news that an enterprising naturalist has been successfully pairing up same-sex sets of mute swans for longterm relationships. Swan specialist **Dr. William J. Sladen** has offered a nonviolent — and same-sex sexy! — solution to the problem of mutes becoming less migratory and, unlike tundra and trumpeter swans, hanging out on the Chesapeake Bay all year, chowing down on endangered vegetation. Some hot-headed wetlands types want to declare open season on the breed. But Sladen hooks the homo-swans up when they're still dewy-eyed cygnets, and, according to the *NY Times,* the pairs thrive well without all that messy reproducing.

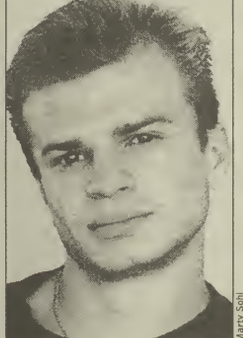



Paul Hosefros / The New York Times
Swinging same-sex swans seek third for water sport adventures.

"I call it my 'life partners' solution — we're very correct with our terminology," Sladen said. So far, he's set up 54 pairs of same-sex couples. "It's kind of sad brokering life partnerships, but it's much better than killing. They are living the rest of their lives in adoring comfort." We guess the human equivalent can be seen swanning down Castro St. in matching tracksuit outfits.

Surprise treat inside

As our dance desk attests this week, most of us can never really get enough of delicious SF Ballet principal dancer **Guennadi Nedviguine** in tights, onstage or off.


Marty Sohl
Guennadi's got a brand-new bag.

Apparently, neither can dancers' trade-journal *Pointe* magazine, which this month features the leapin'-lizards hottie in its amusing "Dance Bag" feature. That's the one where a dancer is asked to empty her/his tote onto a table so all the world can see what she/he is schlepping around to rehearsal.

Guennadi's goods, spilled out and on display for dance photographer **Marty Sohl**, include nutrition bars, Advil, ballet shoes, clean shirt and socks, deodorant, and lip balm, but alas, no change of dance-belt. Maybe that lives with his cups in his locker.

Then our pal the **Golf Guy** told us that this type of invasive coverage is also a regular feature on the Golf Channel: sportsmen (or their caddies) are compelled to dump out the contents of their golf-bags for the camera. Imagine our golf fan's surprise when a tube of K-Y jelly tumbled out of one player's bag. The greensman explained that he used it to keep his clubs nice and greased up. Uh-huh.

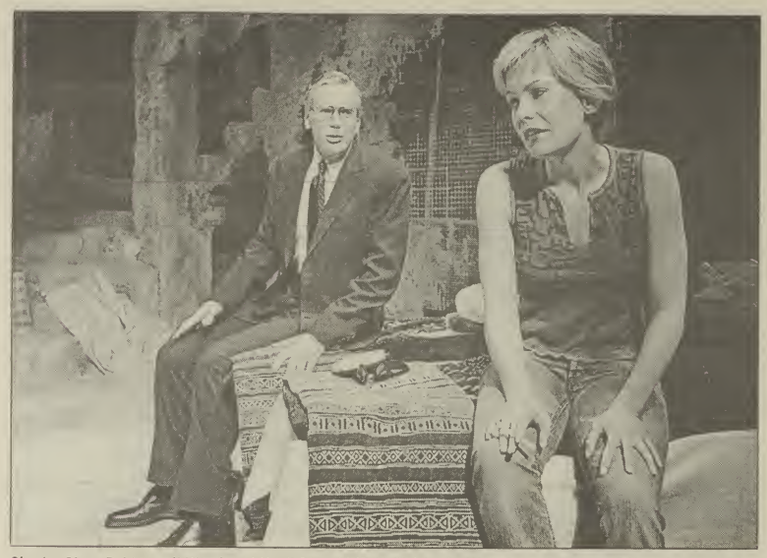
Arty punk news

The cult films of German underground moviemaker **Peter Sempel** get a rare Bay Area showcase this month at the **Goethe** Institut. Sempel is known for his punk film collages and soundtracks, in which he overlays music by the likes of **Einstürzende Neubauten** and **Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds**.

Four nights of screenings, all at 7:30 p.m.: ***Nina Hagen*** - *Punk and Glory* (1999), Tues., May 7; *Shorts,* including ***Allen Ginsberg*** - *Hustler for Life* and ***Patti Smith*** *Sings for* ***Harry Smith*** *Library,* Thurs., May 9. Ginsberg is said to sing two **Hank Williams** songs. Sempel will attend the above two events.


Nina Hagen in *Dandy*

Then, on Tues., May 14, *Jonas in the Desert,* director **Jonas Mekas** and his circle; and on Thurs., May 16, *Dandy,* based very loosely on **Voltaire**'s *Candide.* Goethe Institut Inter Nationes, 530 Bush St. $5; members free. ▼



Charles Shaw Robinson (Milton) and Heidi Dippold (Priscilla) in the West Coast premiere of *Homebody/Kabul*.

Afghanistan, mon amour

Kushner's 'Homebody/Kabul' in Berkeley

by Richard Dodds

Afghanistan is a nuisance," traveler writer Paul Theroux wrote in 1975. "Even the hippies have begun to find it intolerable."

In Tony Kushner's *Homebody/Kabul*, the guidebook that inspires a dissatisfied English housewife to take off for Afghanistan was published in 1965, so you can imagine how quaint the information. The year is 1998, and this unhappy dreamer disappears into the slightly organized chaos that is Kabul. Her meek husband and growling daughter set off to find her (or her body), as well as some answers for her strange journey.

The newest play from the author of *Angels in America* was written well before Sept. 11 thrust Afghanistan back onto the front pages, and has been on Berkeley Rep's schedule nearly a year. Now laden with an eye-opening synergy with current events, the play paints a country of fear and anger that is ready to blow. Kushner also provides a history lesson on how this inhospitable expanse came to be such an explosive place, and the results are both intriguing and a bit of an endurance test.

Unlike other contemporary playwrights whose motto is lean and mean — 90 minutes, no intermission, no subplots — Kushner seems to revel in an expansive canvas. It takes him three hours and 40 minutes spread over three acts to unfold his tale, and despite his eloquence and insight, bouts of restlessness can set in.

The play actually began as a one-act monologue, and the first hour or so of *Homebody/Kabul* features Michelle Morain alone onstage telling us, in her eccentric, polysyllabic way, of how the 1965 guidebook images of Afghanistan provide an illusion of escape. Morain, who disappears for the remainder of the play, effectively handles this difficult discourse.

Still, it's something of a relief as the set opens up and other characters emerge as the father-daughter search begins in director Tony Taccone's meaty production. They are an oddly unsympathetic pair, clearly conflicted in their feeling toward this loved one. The emotionally paralyzed husband never emerges from his hotel room, finding solace in the booze and drugs that a burnt-out British attaché can provide. The daughter is often angry at her mother, and her search comes as much from duty as passion.

Heidi Dippold plays this character as relentlessly shrill, which may be the way it is written, but there are times one wishes she would just shut up. It's also hard to maintain sympathy for a character who takes off her burqa for a smoke in the middle of Taliban-run Kabul.

Charles Shaw Robinson's performance as the milquetoast husband comes across as mannered at first, but eventually finds a comfortable level in his scenes with the alcoholic junkie low-level diplomat flavorfully played by Bruce McKenzie.

The difficult casting assignment of credibly populating the production with a supporting cast of Afghani characters is well met at Berkeley Rep, notably by Harsh Nayyar as a poet who writes in Esperanto, Julian Lopez-Morillas as the local doctor who proudly describes in excruciating detail the alleged murder of the homebody, and Jacqueline Antaramian as an intellectual desperate for asylum.

It is Antaramian's character who speaks a line that can send a shudder through an audience. "If you love the Taliban so much," she says to an outsider, "bring them to New York." ▼

***Homebody/Kabul* will run at Berkeley Rep through June 23. Tickets are $42-$54. Call (510) 647-2949.**

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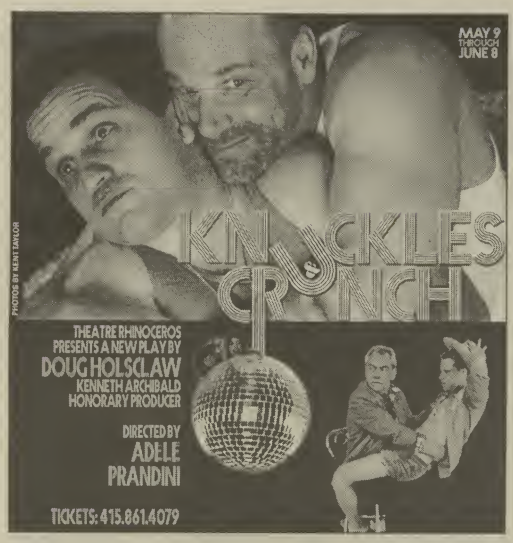
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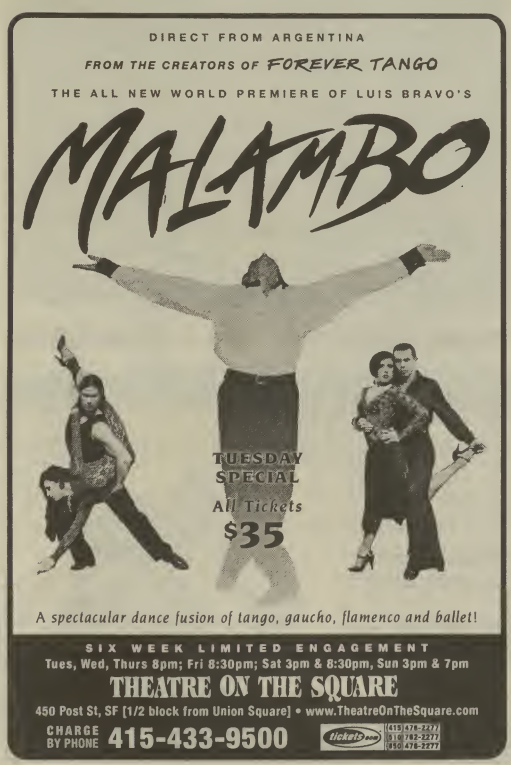
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Weiferd Watts

Joanna Berman and Roman Rykine in Yuri Possokhov's *Damned,* choreographed for San Francisco Ballet.

Triumph with tragedy

Possokhov's masterful 'Medea' for SFB

by Stephanie von Buchau

I'm still not sure if Yuri Possokhov will emerge as a definitive choreographer in terms of pure movement — a Balanchine or a Mark Morris who can abstract music into gestures that make an attentive viewer hear as well as see. Yet, in the two works he has created for San Francisco Ballet, *Magrittomania* and his new *Damned,* premiered last week — he has proved such a master of stagecraft that I wish San Francisco Opera would hire him, and his talented, imaginative designer Thyra Hartshorn (who also designed *Magrittomania*).

Damned, a pared-down take on Euripides' *Medea,* made as a parting gift for Possokhov's frequent partner, Joanna Berman, is, to put it bluntly, damned good. Hartshorn's contribution is a clean, functional stage picture — a tortured tree and clumps of reeds upstage — that manages to be visually attractive as well. Kevin Connaughton's lighting and the uncredited special effects are prominent in Possokhov's success at telling the story swiftly, without halting the flow of dance, and telling it in terms that won't make us throw up.

For *Medea* is about a woman who takes revenge on Jason, the man who betrayed her love, by killing their two sons and his new lover. In Greek tragedy, the gory stuff usually takes place off-stage and is told to us by a Chorus. Possokhov includes a Chorus (a unisex-dressed and -masked corps of 16 dancers), but he doesn't flinch from showing us Medea's horrible revenge — and the piece is stronger for it. Without weakening the shock value, Possokhov manages to make the incineration of Jason's new love, the Princess, and the stabbing of Medea's two sons look almost tasteful.

What a contrast to SFB's last *Medea,* a melodramatic bog of which I remember only Jason (Dennis Marshall) mooning the audience. In addition to his thoughtful stage sensibility and aesthetic taste, Possokhov displays unfailing musical-dramatic judgment. He quickly erases one's fears that employing Ravel would end up as fruitless as Julia Adam's misguided Vivaldi attempt. *Damned* opens with Jason (Roman Rykine, looking hunky and clueless, the original male chauvinist pig; you understand exactly why Medea and the Princess desire him, and why they are going to suffer for their cupidity) dancing rapturously with his new love (Yuan-Yuan Tan, delectable in a peach-colored chiton.) The music is the orchestrated version of Ravel's "Pavane for a Dead Princess." As Keanu Reeves might say, "Whoa!"

Then Roy Bogas plays the Concerto in D for the Left Hand (Jean-Louis LeRoux conducting), and that harsh elegy accompanies Medea (Berman in black, with her hair bound up in a scarf, looking middle-aged and very unhappy) first trying to get Jason back, and then, realizing that she's lost him, plotting revenge. Stranger in a strange land, unable to speak the language, having repudiated her family (and killed her brother) to follow this man who now rejects her, Medea displays her "otherness" in the midst of a classical, *en pointe* ballet, by dancing like a Martha Graham heroine, even in toe shoes. Whereas Tan is all tender, balletic voluptuousness, Berman's choreography is pelvis-oriented, cramped, agonized. Her thrusting arms end in fists; she pounds the stage. It should be cliché, but it isn't. Possokhov knows his dancer, and she delivers the performance of a lifetime.

Wrung out

The special effect in which the Princess is incinerated by a magic cloak given to her by Medea is so wonderful I won't reveal it. Just when you think you are not going to be able to take the murder of the children, Possokhov stages that brilliantly, too. By the time the "Pavane" returns, now in its solo piano version, Jason, the audience and the bereft Medea are thoroughly wrung out. It took the viewers a few minutes to regain their self-possession and rain applause on the artists.

What didn't I like about *Damned?* Very little. Perhaps it is too much to expect Jason to stay with Martha Graham when he can have Yuan-Yuan Tan, and nowadays, when mothers regularly off their kids because of post-partum depression, domineering husbands or boyfriends who find children inconvenient, the subject matter itself has lost its mythic allure and seems sordid and indefensible. I grew up thinking of Medea as a feminist heroine, but now she just seems like one of those pathetically shallow modern women who, driven by hormones (or advertising), love too well but not wisely. It is to Berman's and Possokhov's eternal credit that their Medea is more sinned upon than sinning.

The rest of the evening, believe it or not, lives up to its magnificent centerpiece. Program VII opens with a revival of Helgi Tomasson's *Silver Ladders* (eponymous score by Joan Tower), which he made, as coincidence would have it, for Tan and Rykine. To see them dancing Jason and the Princess today, so fluidly and maturely, remembering their somewhat awkward pairing in 1998, is to recognize Tomasson's greatest strength as artistic director — his ability to spot and nurture talent. I always liked Tan, but I wouldn't have given a fig for Rykine's chances; in four years, both have improved almost beyond recognition.

Their roles in *Silver Ladders* were taken by Lucia Lacarra and Cyril Pierre, who danced the hieratic central pas de deux with much more power and grace than the original couple had, though one could see in all of Lacarra's movements the influence of Tan's longer, more sinuous line and exotic presence.

Mark Morris' *Sandpaper Ballet* (music by Leroy Anderson) was repeated for the umpteenth time. I can't get enough of Gonzalo Garcia and Guennadi Nedviguine soaring into the wings; Damian Smith and Kristin Long rolling over each other, their legs a delicious tangle of sensuality; James Sofranko and Tina LeBlanc dazzling in "Trumpeter's Lullaby"; and Lorena Feijoo as the snottiest of the three divas. Time for someone to make a sassy, sophisticated contemporary ballet just for her. ▼

San Francisco Ballet box office: (415) 865-2000

Mother & child reunion

Olympia Dukakis returns to SF in ACT play

by Richard Dodds

Olympia Dukakis, a vibrant performer and a down-to-earth woman, has been worrying lately about money. "Since the [averted] actors' strike and writers' strike and then Sept. 11, there has been very little work," the Oscar-winner said. "I *do* do things for the money, but there's been very little of that."

Doing theater in San Francisco, even at a big-budget operation like ACT, is not one of the things Dukakis does for money. But she's back with the company for the fourth time, this time in Michel Tremblay's *For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again.* She plays the happy-memory version of a playwright's mother, characters who bear intentional resemblance to Tremblay and his late mother.

Tremblay, an openly gay French-Canadian playwright, is heralded in his own country, but is barely known here. Dukakis is one of those who have known of Tremblay, and she once championed him to ACT's Carey Perloff when she ran the Classic Stage Company in New York.

When it was decided to postpone a new translation of Gorky's *The Mother,* with Dukakis announced for the title role, Perloff suggested *For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again.* Dukakis was quickly onboard, and she begins performances May 4 at the Geary Theater.

"It's such a gem of a play," she said. "What makes my character special is her imagination, her ability to enter into imaginary circumstances and create scenarios in order to make a point. I think Tremblay wrote this, as the title says, for the pleasure of seeing her again, enjoying her idiosyncrasies and acknowledging the contribution she made to him."

Tremblay presents his memories in a series of conversations between mother and son (played by Marco Barricelli) that span the decades. As the boy becomes a man, there are subtle references to his gayness that suggest a lingering discomfort with this reality for his mother.

"She's very worried about what's going to happen to him, how his life will turn out," Dukakis said. "She doesn't want him in the theatre, because she says they are all fairies. She doesn't say that in the play, but he's written a book about his early experiences and I was just reading it. So part of the reason for this play is to let his mother know that he's okay."

Late bloomer

Dukakis herself has two sons and a daughter, raised in Montclair, NJ, where she and husband Louis Zorich were operating a theater company when she was cast as Cher's mother in *Moonstruck.* The ensuing Academy Award led to a whole new late-blooming career that has included all three editions of the *Tales in the City* series.

"*Tales of the City* is a big one for me," she said of the TV adaptation of the Maupin novels. "I just love that material. I love the part, with all her dualities and contradictions."

A fourth program is in the works, and Dukakis will return to the role of Anna Madrigal, the motherly, pot-smoking transsexual landlady at 28 Barbary Lane. "I'm not even in the fourth book," she said, "but Armistead is going to write me in. I keep asking for romance, and he says he'll do it, and then he has me have this brief little interlude with a man who turns out to be my father!"

When *Tales of the City* made its debut on PBS eight years ago, its matter-of-fact depiction of gay characters, giddy embrace of pot-smoking, and general celebration of life outside the boundaries created a passionate following. It also caused consternation in other quarters, leading a squeamish PBS to let Showtime take over the subsequent sequels.

"It was banned and defiled and pixilated all over the country," Dukakis said. "But it was breaking ground, asking people to look at gay men and women as human beings struggling to find themselves and to find happiness. What a shocking thought."

Playing Mrs. Madrigal did come at a price for Dukakis. "I was working with a speakers' bureau," she said, "and because of the show, there were people who were not interested in my coming to speak. It affected my money-making."

In the past year or so, Dukakis has done a couple of art-house films and played the title role in *King Lear* at a theater in Massachusetts. She has gone up twice for television series that would have helped subsidize these labors of love.

"I went down to the line with them, but I didn't get the shows. I was considered too much for the material, too overpowering. I think I'm not vanilla enough." She did turn down one proffered sitcom "because it was just not good."

The talk of auditioning for a television series led the conversation to Elaine Stritch, another non-vanilla performer, and her Broadway show that Dukakis has already seen three times. In the one-woman show, Stritch bluntly describes how she "fucked up" her audition for *The Golden Girls,* for the role that must have gone to Bea Arthur. By insulting the series' creator at their first meeting, Stritch ruefully remembered getting off that gravy train even before it had even left the station.

"I don't think in the end she regrets it, because it would have changed her life," Dukakis said. "Look at the things she got to do because she didn't do the series, and the stuff Bea Arthur didn't get to do because of that. You can see the difference if you see Bea Arthur's [one-woman] show. You can see how she just got wiped out."



Kevin Berne

Dukakis at a rehearsal of *For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again:* a gem.

The 70-year-old Dukakis shows no signs of getting wiped out, and her current assignment for ACT is a case in point. "I like to do things that really scare me, like this play scares me," she said. "I guess it makes you feel more the quick of life." ▼

***For the Pleasure of Seeing Her Again* will run May 4-June 9 at the Geary Theater. Tickets are $11-$61. Call 749-2228.**

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It's a Rhinoceros world

Looking ahead to Theatre Rhino's 2002-03 season

by Richard Dodds

Theatre Rhinoceros, which had a tough go of it after Sept. 11, isn't going for the sure thing in its 2002-2003 season. The upcoming schedule contains nothing but world premieres.

There is always something exciting in the words "world premiere," even when there is no guarantee that the world premiere production won't also be the world finale. It's something new, unseen, and therefore filled with promise.

Some of that promise can be deduced from the names of the premieres' creators — Doug Holsclaw, Sara Moore, John Fisher, Johari Jabir, Kate Bornstein, and Ronnie Larsen — all of whom have followings of various shapes and sizes for their queerly original work.

Holsclaw, Rhino's artistic director, figures a season of world premieres befits a theater getting ready to celebrate its 25th anniversary. "It's kind of commemorative," Holsclaw said, "because we've always been a place where gays and lesbians have been able to develop new work."

He knows whereof he speaks. Theatre Rhino staged his play *The Last Hairdresser* in 1997, and his new play *Knuckles and Crunch* will close out the current season beginning May 9. Holsclaw will then return in September with *Hairstory*, a piece he describes as "*A Chorus Line* about hair."

Holsclaw is teaming with Johari Jabir, director of *For Colored Boys...*, for this monologue and song revue based on interviews with gays and lesbians about their hair. "We've been talking to people from different ethnic backgrounds," he said. "It's going to be a fun show, but people do have very strong feelings about their hair, and there are larger statements to be found."

Show Ho, arriving in early November, is written, directed, and performed by the versatile Sara Moore. Moore plays 30 characters for whom the stage is an addiction and who have thus earned the eponymous nickname.

"Sara did *Co-dependant Space Alien Lesbian Seeks Same* in our Studio last year," Holsclaw said, "and I was so blown away by her that I called her up and said, 'Let's do something.' She came back with her ideas."

Writer-director John Fisher (*Medea - the Musical*) returns to Theatre Rhino in January for a third consecutive season. *Amnesia*, his new play, is about a music critic so traumatized by a bad performance of *Tosca* that he loses his memory — including the fact that he is gay.

"I've been trying to find the right way to describe it," Holsclaw said. "It's *Sixth Sense* meets something. I still haven't figured out the 'something.'"

March will bring the premiere of Kate Bornstein's *Strangers in Paradox*, a play described as "Dr. Kervorkian meets *Thelma and Louise*." The multimedia play about lesbian serial killers (but only of those who ask for it) was postponed from the current season in the skittishness that followed Sept. 11.

Holsclaw isn't sure yet how he will officially present the title of Ronnie Larsen's new play, opening in May 2003. For the moment, he's spelling it *C*S*: A Love Story*. "Besides," he said, "with Ronnie, the title can change a million times. There's lots of drama on stage and off whenever Ronnie's around."



Sara Moore will play 30 denizens of the stage in *Show Ho*, coming in Nov.

Backstage

Larsen's new play, based on a true story of Marines caught acting in gay porn, continues his explorations of porn and sex that have included *Making Porn*, *10 Naked Men*, and *A Few Gay Men*. "I think it's easy to write Ronnie off and say he just does that porno stuff," Holsclaw said, "except that he's a pretty good writer and a pretty good actor, and his material is pretty insightful."

Theatre Rhino is also continuing the recent tradition of presenting a high-profile gay or lesbian comic at the Victoria Theatre for a short run. For the upcoming season, it will be Kate Clinton performing her show *You Look Like You Need a Laugh* on Sept. 27-28.

Season tickets are now on sale. Call 861-5079.

Crunch time

Doug Holsclaw's aforementioned *Knuckles and Crunch*, opening next week at Theatre Rhino, takes its inspiration from the odd-couple pairing of two drifters in John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*. But instead of Depression-era itinerant workers, Holsclaw has turned the protagonists into a couple of lost souls who wind up working at a seedy gay bar and disco in Columbus, Ohio in 1978.

John Michael Beck, seen recently at Rhino in *Design for Living*, plays the beefy Crunch, while Jon Gale, a veteran of *Cyber Queer*, plays the neurotic Knuckles. The cast also features Brian Yates Sharber, Corey McDaniel, Robert Martinez, and Ron Lanza.

The production is something of a reunion. Lanza, who plays the bar owner, worked with Holsclaw when he ran the late Valencia Rose and the more recently late Josie's Cabaret. And Adele Prandini, Theatre Rhino's artistic director for nine years, returns after a lengthy hiatus to direct her successor's new play. For tickets, call 861-5079.

Short scenes

• The unpredictable cabaret diva Ute Lemper performs a concert intriguingly titled *Blood and Feathers* at Davies Symphony Hall on May 18. She'll be accompanied by piano, bass, and drums in this program of high-drama songs of America and Europe. Call 864-6000.

• If you want to see the musical that beat out *Mamma Mia!* and *The Lion King* to win London's 2000 Olivier Award, you'll have to head to Walnut Creek. The Diablo Light Opera Company is presenting *Honk!*, a wryish take on the Ugly Duckling story, in the Dean Lesher Center beginning this weekend. Call (925) 943-7469.

• Sean Owens will help open Exit Theatre's DIVAfest on May 16 with a return of his *Girlesque* tribute to the female forces that helped make him the man he is. It's one of eight DIVAfest events running through May 25. Call 673-3847 for more info. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

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This side of nowhere

Garrin Benfield's urban blues

by Mark Mardon

There have been times in the last couple of years," says Garrin Benfield, the bluesy young San Francisco singer/songwriter, "when I've felt like there couldn't be one more thing that was up in the air, that was undecided or ungrounded. I was just floating around in all of these elements."

It's a classic blues sentiment, and goes a long way toward explaining the dark beauty of Benfield's bittersweet new album, *Nowhere is Brighter* (Eighth Note Records), a semi-thematic work born out of the tensions of love and life in the urban gay world. Benfield gives vent to a lot of the hard knots of being in a relationship where boundaries are ever-dissolving and reforming.

"I'll be really angry, really dark," Benfield says in anticipation of his CD release concert at the Great American Music Hall on Thursday, May 9. "That's generally the space I'm in when I'm writing." He hopes the end product doesn't come across as bitter or jaded, "but that's sort of what inspires me to create, getting into those spaces."

When he stops writing and starts playing, it's a whole different tune. To hear Benfield play live is to rise above petty cares, to float dreamily on the waves of his voice, sweetly seductive even as it cries of loneliness. That voice's distinctive, plaintive quality is what draws people into Benfield's musical world of introspective pop songs and urban folk narratives.

The collected songs are masterfully performed by Benfield and his core band members, Ricky Fataar on drums and James "Hutch" Hutchison on bass, along with a star-studded line-up of contributing musicians, including Benfield's famous pal Boz Scaggs on guitar, longtime collaborator Michael Rodriguez on keyboards and vocals, Julie Wolf of Ani DiFranco fame on B-3 Organ and vocals, Bonnie Raitt collaborator John Cleary on honky-tonk piano, and Charlie Gillingham of Counting Crows on B-3 Organ. The result is an album of great stylistic variety, with zero glitches either in artistry or engineering, demonstrating the truth of the old adage that the best art is created not in times of contentment or elation, but in the down times.

"I just feel so much I've lost my sense of you," Benfield sings in "Lonely Journey," a lush, bassy, guitar-driven lament at not being able to extract from love all its possibilities. His voice sweeps across plains like the wind rolling tumbleweeds. "Won't you take me away from here?" he pleads, and when the voice rises into country-western wailing, in the distance you can almost hear coyotes howling.

Soulful regrets

The album, engineered and mixed by Rodriguez, takes Benfield's bluesy vocals and guitar-playing, adds a country twang, brightens it all up with infectious pop melodies, gives it extra oomph with the classy line-up of collaborating musicians, and sends it cascading one glorious song after another down a waterfall of deep soulful regrets.

"Nothing that I saw on your face/Told me which way to go," Benfield sings in "To Know," the inscrutability of his lover gnawing at him. But the beat and catchy tune, plus the vocal harmonies with Wolf, give the song a happy-go-lucky air. If love gets you down, sing a happy tune and all is well, at least on the outside.

In "I Swear," Benfield says he's looking for "the kind of love that dares speak my name." This snappy Beatles-esque number, with Gillingham on B-3 Organ, fades out gracefully, leaving us pondering a key phrase: "What I'm looking for/Is someone to receive me."

In "The Sense That I Get," a straight-up blues number, Benfield employs both acoustic and electric guitar riffs to urge his indecisive lover to "hurry up and make up your mind/Before the door closes on us both." Scaggs sits in on this one, playing a mean second guitar solo.

What most distinguishes "Home" — another of Benfield's wind-swept songs, evoking rocky shores far from home — is its resonating percussion, a deeply reverberating drone, like rumbling thunder. "When we recorded it, we set up a timed delay," says Benfield, so that drummer Ricky Fataar "is hitting one note, and it's reverberating."

The saddest-sounding, most gorgeous song on the album is also the simplest. "Nowhere," the title song, has lyrics of only a few words: "Nowhere is brighter," hauntingly sung to the strains of Benfield's mesmerizing fingerpicking. What he likes about the song is its darkness and lightness colliding. "It could be," he says, that "the nowhere place is the

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Joshua Smith

Benfield: "It could be that the nowhere place is the brighter place."



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Surfing on dry land

Beach boys turned pioneer skateboarders in 'Dogtown and Z-Boys'



Pat Darrin

Tony Alva could be called the father of the vertical style of skateboarding.

by David Lamble

The new documentary film *Dogtown and Z-Boys*, opening Friday, begins in a typical California beachtown and describes how a motley crew of surf-bums figures out how to put wheels under their boards so they can soar across dry land, using the landscape as an actual dreamscape. Their destination, ironically enough, was the greatest of all California dreams, the kidney-shaped swimming pool, empty of course. Only in LA.

Well, not LA proper. Stacy Peralta, the film's director, says, "The film begins where we all grew up, a place called South Santa Monica/Ocean Park and Venice, which is nicknamed Dogtown. It was basically a rundown beach resort in the '70s that once had a heyday in the '40s as a kind of Coney Island of the West." Born in 1957, Peralta was so good at what he was, a teenage skateboarder, that he retired at 19 to become a maker, first of skateboards, and then of films about the boys who still ride them.

He explains that skateboarding resulted from the natural conditions of California surfing. "Because you can surf only in the early morning hours in the LA area, because of the wind that blows the waves out in the afternoon, we would spend the rest of our days skateboarding." The "we" Peralta speaks of were the "Z-Boys," the shaggy-haired teenage boys (and one girl) who hung out at the Zephyr Production Surf Shop, where owner Jeff Ho and staff made custom boards in the back. The establishment became the *de facto* clubhouse for an ethnically diverse crew of beach-slum boys who at first dabbled with the newfangled skateboards as way of improving their surfing prowess.

Because we've all grown blasé from endless summers in search of the perfect wave, *Dogtown and Z-Boys* actually takes flight when the shaggy creatures crawl out of the water and start exploring the local terrain. "Because of the geographical layout of Los Angeles, built on a series of hills and mountains, there were all these playgrounds with asphalt waves built to level out the fields, so we used those asphalt waves as if they were waves in the ocean to skateboard on."

Empty pools

The worst drought in 100 years hit LA in the early '70s. Peralta recalls the natural disaster combining with all the other odd conditions to produce a kind of "disharmonic convergence" that would propel the Z-Boys and their LA brethren to the top of the new world of skateboarding. "The city government was so strict with water-rationing that they prohibited people from filling their pools. LA is the world's capital for swimming pools, especially the kind of pools that Hollywood actors liked, which were these big, sensuously-shaped kidney and peanut[-shaped] bowls. So we had access to terrain that kids nowhere in the world had, and it gave us an evolutionary leap in developing this sport first."

If anyone can lay claim to being the father of the modern "vertical" style of skateboarding, it is Tony Alva. Hardcore for the sport by the age of 5, Alva describes how pool-surfing put the Z-Boys in a special zone. "As soon as we started skating in empty pools, we knew we were pushing to another level, because there were things that we knew were possible, like hitting the lip of the pool doing a 180 turn on one wheel. We were laying down the basic fundamentals for vertical skateboarding."

Alva, clinging to his board, passing over the lip of a bone-dry pool, was deliriously happy, a fact attested to by the truly spectacular home movies and still photos taken of him, like an extreme-sport Nijinsky, only this time we are there in the dark, gasping at the sight of the dream fulfilled.

In case you think the Nijinsky analogy is a bit much, Peralta and the surviving Z-Boys very much think of themselves as representing a boy vanguard of e-sport culture that is as demanding as classical or modern dance. "Although we didn't get a lot of support from society and our parents, we put a lot of years into this. Style and how you presented yourself on your skateboard, how you carried your body, your hand position was so important. That was the only way you were recognized as being good. Tony would go up to the top of these 20-foot banks and be like crossfooting his board. He's like a matador in a vicious situation."

Dogtown and Z-Boys mostly accentuates the positive, but there are hints of dark rides experienced by some of the Z-Boys — especially Jay Adams, who, at 13, was carving out his niche as a kind of Mozart of the board, while never relaxing into the big corporate endorsements that would make many teen skater stars rich and famous. "The current of life that ran through him was bigger than he could contain. Jay never approached skateboarding as a profession, but as something he loved doing he wanted to be good at. When it became a professional activity, it just didn't meld with his sensibility, and he kind of got run over by the whole thing."

A collector of socially undervalued skills, Adams, a young, brown-skinned, blond-haired "surf-nazi," would curse out guys twice his age and size, chuck a dirt clod two blocks to smash a store light, and scream taunts at men and women, attracting crowds that Alva feared would get them all beaten to a pulp. Alva remembers Adams as more Johnny Rotten than Mozart, with an almost preternatural athleticism allowing him to run the gamut of board moves: "360 aerials off jump-ramps, tail grabs, fast plants, inverts," all the cool stuff that is currently winning big money and Olympic gold for a new generation of skate- and snowboarders. ▼





Will's Grace is no bimbo

But she plays one in 'Hollywood Ending'

by Brandon Judell

Manhattan's Drake Hotel is in celebrity overdrive. A very pregnant Téa Leoni and a very tan, tight-skinned George Hamilton are scurrying one way. Butch Treat Williams and director-turned-actor Mark (*On Golden Pond*) Rydell stalk another. Then Woody Allen, with a very black pair of eyeglass frames resting on his nose, shows up looking a bit puzzled.

This is the cast of *Hollywood Ending,* the new Woody Allen comedy, his best in years. That's enough reason to celebrate and get your notepads out.

But the person the press is salivating for is *Will & Grace*'s 5'8" Debra Messing. Five years ago, they wouldn't have touched her with a 10-foot feather. Even after starring roles in the critically acclaimed, little-seen TV series *Ned and Stacey* and the less-cheered-for sci-fier *Prey,* plus a small part in *McHale's Navy,* she was small potatoes. Messing was not even worthy of a blip on *People*'s computer screens.

Now forget it. She's a star, and everyone wants to mess with Messing. Even after appearing as Mary Magdalene in TV's *Jesus* (the Catholic take on *Will & Grace*) or Richard Gere's wife in the horrid *The Mothman Prophecies,* her appeal hasn't dimmed.

Surprisingly, after the hundreds of interviews Messing has given since she acquired all this Top-10-TV-series-inspired attention, her enthusiasm for the press hasn't deflated.

Looking stunning in the tightest of jeans — she's much more glamorous in person than on camera — Messing sat herself down and immediately said of her *Hollywood Ending* experience: "I loved it. I had the time of my life."

Her character Lori is the semi-brainless girlfriend of a down-and-out film director (Allen) who goes psychosomatically blind on his last big break.

"Lori's ditzy. She's over 20," Messing shares. "I guess if you have to characterize her, you would say she's a ditz. More of a ditz than a bimbo, because I don't think she has any malice, or that she is necessarily using her body to get ahead. She just has a very simple view of the world and about her place in the world. She's sure she's going to be the next Julia Roberts."

Public service

Messing's own world view is a bit more complex. Acting-wise, she wouldn't mind being the next Diane Keaton. Politically, she's an activist. "It's very important to me to speak out," she says about her public service announcements for gay causes. "I mean, it's a privilege. *Will & Grace* has given me the opportunity to do these things just by virtue of the nature of what our show is about, and I have so many gay friends. I also had very important gay teachers who either have passed away from AIDS, or who have had horrible acts of prejudice committed against them.

"Plus my parents throughout my entire life," she continues, "have been deeply involved in the community, in giving back. Their motto: 'Do what you can to help if you are lucky enough to be able to help in any way that you can.' So if speaking is going to bring attention to raising money for AIDS research, then it's a privilege for me to be able to do that. Or for the Human Rights Campaign."

Taking a breath, Messing adds, "I mean, it can't be all about me me me all the time. I could easily be living in the East Village doing theatre where I'm not being paid a dime and be just as happy. I happen to be very lucky and making a living, so I want to be able to give back if I can. If there is anything that's great about celebrity, it's that you can help shine a light on really important things that are substantive that should be addressed socially."



Debra Messing as Lori in *Hollywood Ending:* "a very simple world view."

As for the next season of *Will & Grace,* "There will be more of an ease. Much more confidence for everyone. With the writers, with the actors, with everyone, we understand the characters' world now. It's not a matter of finding it any more. We know the comic voice. In the early seasons, the effort was about discovering that voice. Now the writers have a good sense of how each of us can contribute to the show. That's just luck. It's just luck that we have a writing staff that's smart and generous as they are."

And it's just luck that we have Debra Messing on our side. ▼

***Hollywood Ending* opens Friday in Bay Area theatres.**

Pianist's psychodrama

'The Piano Teacher' plays the Castro

by David Lamble

The late Billy Wilder was once quoted as saying that he had learned most of what he knew about human nature on the streets of Vienna, and precious little of that was good. German-born director Michael Haneke seems bent on vindicating Wilder's sour take on the strudel capital with an almost clinical study of a May/September romance that goes horribly awry.

In the opening scenes of *The Piano Teacher,* opening Friday at the Castro, the title character Erika (Isabelle Huppert) is living what used to be called a life of quiet desperation. A well-regarded professor at the Vienna Music Conservatory, Erika, in her early 40s, shares a cluttered flat with her aging busybody of a mother (Annie Girardot, who brings a ditzy intensity to the proceedings.) Mom acts like a police desk sergeant who wants an almost hourly updating of her daughter's whereabouts between work and home.

When Erika lamely replies that she took a three-hour walk, mom goes ballistic and, rummaging through Erika's purse, pulls out a new designer dress and rips it to shreds. After a spirited bout of slapping and hair-pulling, the duo settles in for dinner, having proven, as mom puts it, that "We're a hot-blooded family."

What Erika does in those three hours between school and mom is a tad on the creepy side, not because of what she does, but how she does it. She appears to be the only female customer at a brightly-lit porno arcade that would probably win kudos from Susie Bright, but which Erika treats like a trip to the dentist. Erika cruises through the aisles of a drive-in movie spying on sexually engaged couples, and later slices her genitals in the tub with a razor while mom cooks.



Isabelle Huppert and Benoit Magimel: a walk on the wild side.

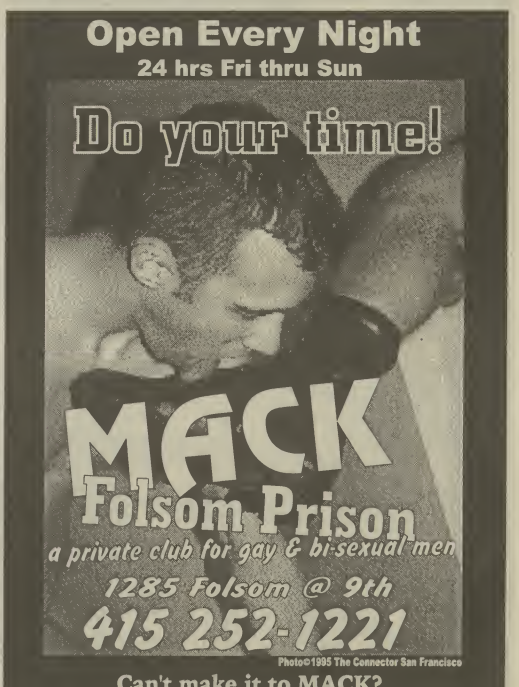
The most depressing part of Erika's life is the piano-teaching part. She has clearly lost the zest for her students, and in fact devotes a considerable effort to cruel if not outright despicable acts at their expense. Running into an adolescent pupil at the porn shop, Erika brushes off his embarrassed apology with the curt, "Are you sorry for being a pig?"

But then love walks in, and things really go to hell. A talented young pianist, Walter (the devilishly handsome Benoit Magimel), shares Erika's taste for Schubert and asks to be her student. Calling Walter's piano technique histrionic, Erika gets him where she really wants him, outside a women's rest-room toilet stall.

Unlike Bertolucci in *Last Tango in Paris* or Lynch in *Blue Velvet,* Michael Haneke does not seem to feel that a serious walk on the wild side of the libido should involve much pleasure for the audience. Walter and Erika's very physical affair is intense, at times almost unwatchable, and yet curiously detached despite a considerable ramping up of sexual violence. Haneke, desiring a very internalized performance, has Huppert display a small range of emotion (had he wanted more Beethoven and less Schubert, he might have chosen Huppert's rival Isabelle Adjani). Our sympathies lie with Magimel, who imbues Walter with a range of feeling that lets us fully identify with a man who, if not the innocent partner of this car wreck, at least reveals a capacity for love, empathy, sanity and a sense of humor. Walter is left with the male version of Isabella Rossellini's lament in *Blue Velvet,* "He put his disease in me!"

The climax of *The Piano Teacher* may please those with seriously unresolved mother issues. ▼

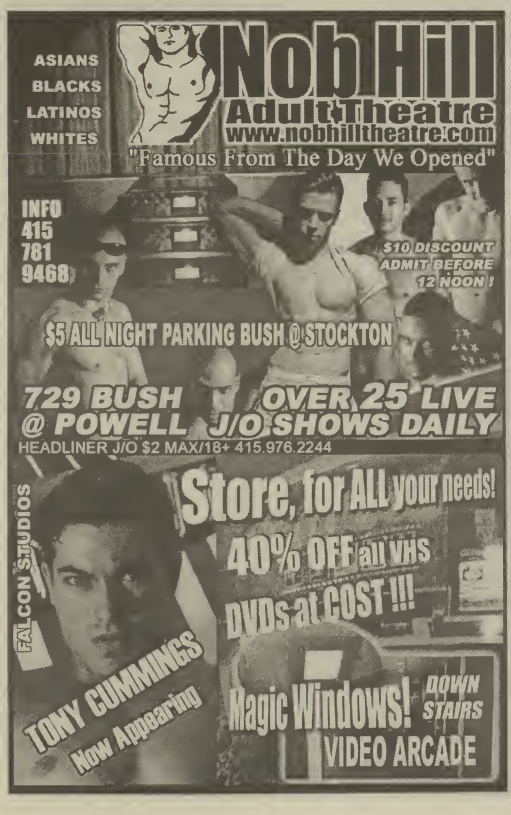














The Attendant (1993, film still): exploring cultural position and identity.

Isaac Julien

◀ *Arts cover*

is honoring him with the 2002 Frameline Award, in recognition of his major contribution to lesbian and gay media arts.

Erotic fantasy

If there's a viewpoint that Julien claims openly, it's a self-described vein of "art with some kind of social purpose with a strong visual aesthetic." In the gallery exhibition, this comes through in pieces like *The Attendant*, a 1993 short work which was the first of his films to be reworked for multi-screened gallery context. It explores themes of cultural position, racial and sexual identity, as well as the power of art as it follows the erotic fantasies of various visitors to a British museum, including literati cameos by novelist Hanif Kureshi and cultural theorist Stuart Hall.

The sound of whips cracking recurs in that film installation, and that sound — and images of bondage that appear in *Trussed*, a languid series of moments of interracial gay coupling, leather-strap adjusting, and a handsome black man in a wheelchair — bring to mind issues of trust and loss, perhaps to AIDS. There's always a lush, non-narrative quality that lends itself to alternative notions of presentation — these works don't necessarily work best with seated audiences in a movie theater. Now his lushly composed visions can be entered and experienced in deeper, more immersive dimensions.

His most recent work, *The Long Road to Mazatlan* (1999), is a choreographed dance between two Texas cowboys (the piece was made while in residence at ArtPace, a San Antonio-based art foundation.) Using three abutted projections, Julien gorgeously emulates Cinemascopic representations of the West, and all the myths of manifest destiny and machismo that go with it. The installation is a Texas two-step expressing yearning between a Latin and a white man, with evocative moments set in a rodeo ring, a sultry swimming hole, a mariachi barroom, and a dusty back road inhabited by a gaggle of drag queenish showgirls.

While there's definitely a gay edge to all these works, Julien's actually quite critical of the gay read. "Innovation has been somewhat lacking in queer culture," he says. "Queer people who go to my exhibition will get a lot out of that work. They will experience something that will have a deep relationship to their subjectivity. It will be an experience."

"Isaac's work is at once terribly cerebral and terribly lush," says Robert Reid-Pharr, author of *Black Gay Man: Essays*, and sometime film critic. "After you see one of his films or installations, you leave with your head full of ideas, and somewhat surprising tingling in the naughty regions of the body."

Perhaps for those reasons and others, Julien has become a seminal figure in black art and queer art movements. "He is an incredibly prolific, complex, daring and ever-evolving artist," says filmmaker Thomas Allen Harris. "His work has and continues to alter the dialogue around race, desire, sexuality and representation. He has been a mentor, and dare I say role model, to many artists."

Though he hasn't given up on single-channel works — *Badasssss Cinema*, his documentary on Blacksploitation films of the 1970s, will air on the Independent Film Channel this fall — it's his installations that have excited him and the art world. Last year, he was short-listed for the Turner Prize, the prestigious British art award, which was presented by the British transplant now referred to as Madge.

"I met Madonna," he laughs, revealing an easily-reached sense of levity and humor. He explains it was at a cocktail party she threw for the Turner runners-up. "She was quite cool," he says, meaning the hip usage of the term. While he seems more academic than starstruck, he's cognizant of the pop diva's activities. "She was aware of my work before, when I made *Soul Rebels* she was invited to come to the party I had with Gaultier, she wore a *Young Soul Rebels* T-shirt. I know she saw *Looking for Langston*." Even so, he has mixed, in-between feelings about her involvement with the art prize. "With the Madonna-ization of the prize, all the artists were eclipsed." He goes on with other salient observations of the precarious intersection of high art and popular culture, but as with his work, knows when to turn off the theory and appreciate levity and pleasure. "The Madonna experience was a lot of fun, I can't say that it wasn't." ▼

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts: (415) 978-2700

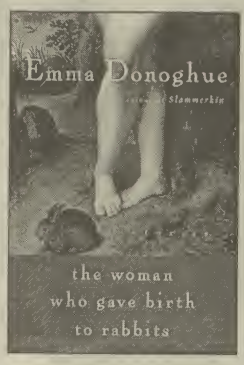


The Long Road to Mazatlan (1999, installation view): all the myths and machismo of the American West.

BOOKS

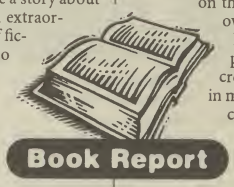
Putting the story back in history

by Deborah Peifer



Most of us, when faced with an irritant, find a way to dispose of it. The oyster, of course, faced with the same problem, makes a pearl. In the same way, most of us, faced with an unconnected bit of history, disregard it, or at most, save it for party conversation. Most of us, of course, are not Emma Donoghue, the novelist (*Slammerkin*) and historian (*We Are Michael Field*). Discovering the odd historical tidbit, Donoghue asks not only, "What really happened?" but also, "What if?"

"Over the last 10 years," she explains, "I have often stumbled over a scrap of history so fascinating that I had to stop whatever I was doing and write a story about it." The result is an extraordinary collection of fictions that are also true. *The Woman Who Gave Birth to Rabbits* (Harcourt, $24) is unquestionably a pearl of great worth.

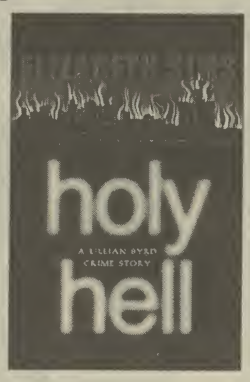


Donoghue uses language with the care of a poet, making each word count. Consider a moment in "Come, Gentle Night," when newlyweds Effie and John pass through Birnam Wood, "where John coughs and blows his nose for some time, in preparation for quoting *Macbeth*."

In that brief description we know everything about John, who, one imagines, couldn't pass Elsinore without quoting *Hamlet*, either, and feel ineffable sympathy for Effie, trapped with so pedantic a husband. "Cured" is a terrifying tale of medical butchery masquerading as health care. "The Last Rabbit" explores the story of Mary Toft, who convinced half the population of England that she did, in fact, give birth to rabbits. Each story includes a brief note explaining where Donoghue discovered the kernel of fact that blossomed into fiction. Drawing on these facts, plus her own extensive knowledge of the periods, Donoghue creates vivid worlds in miniature, complex characters in a perfectly turned phrase, and she invites us into these worlds to consider what might have been. *The Woman Who Gave Birth to Rabbits* is a great collection of stories, even richer in the rereading.

From the sublime...

... to the considerably less so. *Holy Hell* (Alyson, $13.95) is a first novel by Elizabeth Sims. My guess is that somewhere around book three in the Lillian Byrd series, Sims will have written a compelling mystery. Book one, alas, is too unformed to qualify as compelling; its characters are too close to stereotypes to be entirely believable.

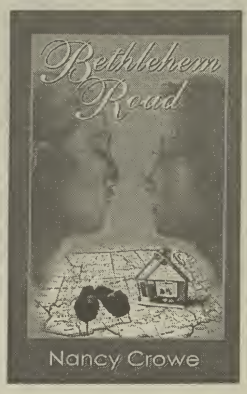


Lillian Byrd is a reporter for a weekly newspaper, given to responding without thinking, as when she stabs the son of the publisher. Granted, he was fondling her, and she only stabbed him in the ass a little, but still — is this a person you'd want to investigate a series of murders?

Fired by the publisher, but not charged with assault for reasons unknown, Lillian decides to work as a freelance writer (that's where the big bucks are), and inquires into the murder of a young woman she had tried to pick up just a few days before her body was discovered. Could this murder be connected to the disappearance of several other women? Will Lillian lie to the cops, break laws, make enemies, attract psychopaths, and generally screw up royally on her way to solving the crimes? You bet she will. Lillian is as inept at investigating as I always imagine amateur sleuths would be in real life, but this touch of reality is an odd choice for a mystery novel. It's hard to envision a future in which Lillian, having nearly been killed lots of times in her first foray, decides to delve into crime again, but *Holy Hell* has series written all over it, so we'll have to wait and see.

Whither thou goest

The story of Ruth is one of very few Biblical tales that set lesbian hearts afire. Nancy Crowe decides to update the tale in *Bethlehem Road* (Odd Girls, $12.95), but with considerably less skill or emotion than the original.

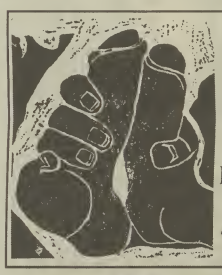


When Ruth is dumped by Marina, she leaves San Francisco to dwell in New Bethlehem, Indiana with Naomi, Marina's mother. What is never made clear is why. In the Biblical tale, we know that Ruth accompanies Naomi because Ruth loves Naomi, and because Naomi needs Ruth. Those feelings are never explored or even expressed. In fact, contemporary Naomi dislikes Ruth heartily, and is certainly homophobic enough to blame Ruth for her daughter's lesbianism. If the decision to take Naomi home is hard to swallow, Ruth's decision to stay in a Bible Belt small-town that hates for fun, a choice that seems to guarantee a closeted future for a woman who came out when she was 15, is absolutely unbelievable.

Pulp mania

For many of a certain age, pulp fiction was the first introduction to what it might mean to be gay or lesbian. These cheap paperbacks, with their lurid covers and equally lurid titles, offered a glimpse into possibilities other than the heterosexual. The Main Library offers an in-depth look at queer pulp fiction, *Forbidden Pleasures: An Exploration and Celebration of Queer Pulp Paperbacks*. The multimedia presentation, May 19 from 2-4 p.m., includes a panel discussion featuring Ann Bannon (*Beebo Brinker*), Christopher Nealon and Susan Stryker, moderated by Jim Van Buskirk. Following the panel, there will be a short excerpt performed from F. Allen Sawyer's *Hot Pants Homo* trilogy of plays inspired by pulp paperbacks of the period. ▼

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Garrin Benfield

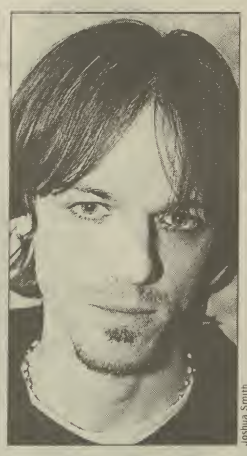
◀ page 31

brighter place, and that's sort of where I choose to reside."

Brightness falls

Some of the fairy-tale glow that has enveloped Benfield's life and career up to now — scores of friends and fans have taken inspiration from Benfield's longterm relationship with photographer Joshua Smith — has given way to a less carefree, more guarded spirit. While lovers' bliss was the hallmark of Benfield's debut album, *Living a Dream*, now you get more of the struggle and estrangement. The overall impact is positive: The blush of innocent youth has faded, leaving a more confident, subtly expressive artist.

"I don't really have a sense of who my audience is," says Benfield, but clearly he's touching a universal chord. On tour with blues-master Scaggs last fall, playing to large crowds at Napa Valley wineries, Benfield found much appreciation from members of the gray-haired set, but just as much enthusiasm from college and nightclub crowds. Certainly he's popular in San Francisco among fellow gay and lesbian singer/songwriters, as he's had a slew of artists play at the "GLBT Songwriters Series" he hosts monthly at Bazaar Cafe, a bastion of folk music in the Richmond District.


Joshua Smith

No more youthful innocence.

"Before I die," says Benfield, having just come from a Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young concert at the giant Compaq Center in San Jose, "I want the experience of playing to 30,000 people." In the midst of the audience, he kept looking at the stage and saying to himself, "I could do that."

Indeed he could. He's a shoo-in for the big time. And who does he most want to play with before those 30,000 people?

"Well," Benfield replies in a blink, "I'm just looking forward to playing with the guys on this record, because that'd be great. With these guys I know we're going to get out there and it's going to totally be good." ▼

Garrin Benfield plays the Great American Music Hall on May 9. Call (415) 885-0750 or visit www.garrin.com.

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare
by Mark Mardon

Urban yogi

Yogis aren't just people who twist themselves into pretzel shapes. And yoga is not just physical exercise. To achieve yoga's promised benefits, a practitioner must flex the mind and spirit as well as the muscles.

Since I started studying and practicing yoga five years ago, I've perused many a yoga book, looking for a spirit guide in print with whom I could closely connect. Of course I've come across many a brilliant inspiration, beginning with *Autobiography of a Yogi*, the 1946 classic by Paramhansa Yogananda. Yet what I was most seeking was someone with contemporary urban sensibilities, especially someone with insights into queer culture. And why should I want a queer perspective on yoga? The practice is, after all, the ancient Indian path to enlightenment, now spread world-wide, and as such is open to all, regardless of sexual orientation or identity. It is, in a word, universal.



Darren John Main

What I've been seeking, in fact, is expanded awareness, and that's precisely what a reader encounters in Darren John Main's *Yoga and the Path of the Urban Mystic* (Findhorn Press; 2002), a gentle, beautifully nuanced, unobtrusively gay exploration of yogic teachings from the perspective of a man who calls himself an urban mystic.

Main presents accessible, down-to-earth, and home-made teachings on yoga basics, discussing the eight limbs of the practice — *Asanas* (poses), *Pranayama* ("The Breath of Life"), *Pratyahara* (sense withdrawal) and the like, along with musings such as "The Flow of Life," "The Yoga of Relationships" — all with an easy-going, mom's apple-pie kind of philosophizing and storytelling.

In a section on mindfulness, for instance, he relates how in Dolores Park one day, he was practicing, doing the physical poses, "but my mind would not stay present. . . . Though my intentions were good, I was easily distracted by the very attractive assortment of scantily clad sunbathers who were all around me. However, I kept returning to the breath," and soon slipped into a focused space where "time seemed to stretch on forever."

Main's confessional writing style reveals a lot about the man and his practice, giving us a picture of him before he discovered yoga, when he was an angry young man. That's a long way from the compassionate attitude toward life he now exhibits. The way he explains yoga, it's less about how to get physically fit and more about the yogic approach to living, how to move through life gracefully, avoiding unnecessary struggles and taking reward in simple pleasures.

"I am torn between living a deeply contemplative life and being a full-fledged member of my secular community," writes Main, but rather than renounce the world, he has learned how to integrate yogic teachings and practice into every-day urban life. That's quite an accomplishment, and the lessons he shares are priceless.▼

Fri 3

Luna Sea Women's Performance Project

Pam Dunn and Yolanda S. Vierra Allen star in "A Lady & A Woman," written by Dr. Shirlene Holmes, directed by Vierra Allen. In this comedy and love story set in the late 1890s South, two African American women, a bull dagger butcher and a divorced innkeeper, midwife, and rootwoman healer find each other against many odds. $11 adv.; $13 door Sat. & Sun.; $10 Thu. 8pm. 2940 16th St., 2nd floor. Tix/info: 863-2989; Mama Bear's Bookstore (Oakland), The Bead Store (on Castro St.), and online at www.lunasea.org

Precita Eyes Mural Arts

Opening Gala Party: "The 12th Annual Mural Awareness Month," celebrating Precita Eyes' 25th Anniversary with music, food, muralists, exhibits and more. $5 donation. 7:30pm. 2981 24th St. Info: 285-2287; www.precitaeyes.org

McKenna Theatre, SFSU

University Dance Theatre presents new works in "No Boundaries/New Dances." Featuring "Concerto in D" by Igor Stravinsky, with original choreography by SFSU Dance Lecturer Cathleen McCarthy, and with the SFSU Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Gregory Magie. Also featuring SFSU Dance Professor Susan Whipp's "Sisters," and guest artist Arturo Fernandez's "Things 1 Thru 13." Plus advanced student works. $12 ($8 students/seniors). 8pm May 3 & 4. 19th & Holloway Ave. Tix: 338-2467.

The Stud

"Chula" presents a Cinco de Mayo party, with dancing to Rancheritas, Salsa, Latin Hip Hop & Reggae and more from DJ Chili D. Featuring "Chulita" go-gos, tequila specials, and Mexican appetizers. 9pm-3am. 399 9th St. (at Harrison). Info: 820-1413.

Victoria Theatre

Spectacles Productions presents "LuminEssence," live stage entertainment with extravagant costuming, towering headdresses, special lighting effects, and an abundance of feathers. A portion of the proceeds benefit The Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation (REAF). Produced, choreographed and directed by James DuBeq. Featuring show tunes by local Filipino pop recording artist Pamela Serrano, and the vocal talents of Jared Lee. Six multi-talented dancers will take the audience on a high-kick tour of world famous musical extravaganzas. A hand-balancing circus duo will mystify the audience with their breath-taking "Cirque" style act. And Holly Gramm, Miss. Gay San Francisco 2002, will entertain with impersonations of pop icons from Cher to Madonna to Marilyn Monroe. $27 adv.; $35 door. 8pm Fri.; 7pm & 9pm Sat.; 3pm Sun. 2961 16th St. Tix: Ft. Mason Center Box Office, 345-7575; and at the TIX Bay Area Booth in the Union Street Garage. Info: www.sfshows.com



University Dance Theater performs *No Boundaries/New Dances* at SFSU. See Friday.

Sat 4

National AIDS Memorial Grove

"Shangri-la: A Shoppers' Paradise." Hunt for bargains amid thousands of items for home and garden from Bay Area designer showrooms, boutiques and department stores. Shop under the big tent (rain or shine) at this bustling marketplace right in the grove. $5 donation requested. 9am-4pm. Corner of Bowling Green Drive & Middle Drive East, Golden Gate Park. Info: 750-8340; www.aidsmemorial.org

Strybing Arboretum

"35th Annual Spring Plant Sale," offering more than 20,000 plants from Strybing's own collection, specializing in uncommon and unusual plants, including rare cloud-forest plants, California natives, cactus and succulents, herbaceous perennials, vines, roses, rock garden plants, rhododendrons and Asian and Mediterranean shrubs. Free. 10am-2pm. Golden Gate Park, 9th Ave. at Lincoln Way. Info: 661-1316; www.strybing.org

New Conservatory Theatre Center

Opening night: NCTC continues its seventh Pride Season with the West Coast premiere of Joe Calarco's drama "Shakespeare's R&J." Calarco version of "Romeo and Juliet" is set in a repressive Catholic boys school, where four boys take turns playing roles in Shakespeare's tragedy and, caught up in the story, face forbidden love for the first time. $35 opening night. $18-$28 other nights. 8pm Wed.-Sat.; Sun. 2pm. 25 Van Ness Ave. Tix/info: 861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

Opening Night Party, celebrating four new gallery exhibitions. Featuring previews of *The Cockettes*, an intimate look at SF's beloved gender-bending drag theatre troupe from the early 1970s; "The Film Art of Isaac Julien," the West Coast debut of video and film projects by one of Britain's preeminent filmmakers; "Straight to Hell: 10 Years of Dyke Action Machine!," celebrating DAM!'s culture-jamming campaigns to insert lesbian imagery into mainstream visual culture; and "2000 Dragons," the 500-ft.-long masterpiece by SF painter/tattoo artist Don Ed Hardy. Plus screenings of Ellen Bruno films and Isaac Julien's *Looking for Langston*. $10 adv., $12 door ($6 Frameline Members; Free for YBCA Members). 701 Mission St. (at 3rd St.). Tix/info: 978-ARTS (2787); www.YerbaBuenaArts.org



Michael Rosen

Michael Rosen's extreme sexual art at the Mark I Chester Studio. See Saturday.

Goat Hall

Goat Hall Productions presents "Arachne," a chamber opera in one act, music and words by Sarah Michael, performed by an all-woman cast with chamber orchestra, led by Dr. Kathleen McGuire of the SF Gay Men's Chorus. This reworking of ancient myth dramatizes a contest between the young master weaver Arachne and the goddess Athena for supremacy in their art. The proud girl pays for her triumph by being transformed into a spider — an effect realized in magical stagecraft. $20 ($15 student/senior). 8pm Sat.; 7pm Sun. Plays May 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 & 19. 400 Missouri St. (at 19th St.). Tix/info: 289-6877; www.goathall.org

Hunters Point Shipyard

Spring Open Studio. The self-guided tour involves 5 buildings on 5 acres, 135 private spaces, a sculpture garden, workshops, demos, free or purchased refreshments, and a free train ride directly from the artists studios to the Golden Gate Railroad Museum 1/4 mile away. Free admission; free parking. 11am-6pm May 4 & 5. Info: 387-5936; www.springopenstudio.com

Mark I. Chester Studio

Opening party: "Michael Rosen: 25 Years of Sexual Art," a retrospective of fine-art sexual photographs on the occasion of the artist's 60th birthday. Rosen has been doing sexual photography in SF since 1977, in a wide range of styles: stark and grainy nude landscapes; impressionistic, gritty, cinema verité S/M scenes; studio portraits involving S/M, erotic piercings, gender play and "non-standard penetration." His latest work comprises soft, romantic computer-enhanced images of explicit sex. Readings and performances will take place throughout the opening. Free. 1pm-midnight. 1229 Folsom St. (btwn 8th & 9th sts). Info: 621-6294; www.shaynew.com

CELLspace

"Expo for the Artist & Musician," a single public space for education, resource sharing, community interaction and cultivating the arts from the grassroots up. Featuring more than 65 nonprofits and businesses with tables offering resources and opportunities to working musicians and artists. Workshops explore practical aspects of producing art and music. $1. 10am-4pm. 2050 Bryant St. (at 18th St.). Info: www.artsandmedia.net/expo

U.N. Plaza

"Cannabis Freedom Day" rally and parade, an all-day festival to celebrate the virtues of the cannabis plant and promote the economic and environmental benefits of hemp to society, as well as to demonstrate resistance to the DEA's war on cannabis hemp and its many uses, medical, agricultural and industrial. San Francisco is one of some 150 cities worldwide participating in "Liberation Day/Million Marijuana March 2002." Organized locally by thehempevolution.org in association with cures-not-wars.org and groups from the Bay Area. Featuring three stages with major bands, DJs, and respected speakers. Performers in the "Cannabis Cabaret" include comedians Blake, Dana Cory, Nick Leonard and Pippi Lovestocking. Free. 12 noon-6pm. United Nations Plaza (next to the Civic Center BART station). The "Pot Pride Parade" departs from U.N. Plaza at

4:20pm.

Futura @ King Street Garage

Futura presents "Cinco De Mayo 2002," with Universal Latino recording artist Eduardo Verastegui direct from Mexico, live on stage, singing "Yo No Se Perder" and other hits from his album. He's Jennifer Lopez' sexy video dance partner! With superstar DJ Salvador. Monica Mesones of Telemundo MCs. Arianna is hostess. $20 adv.; $25 door. 10pm-4am (show at midnight). 21+w/ID. 174 King St. Info: 665-6715; www.FuturaSF.com

Sun 5

Club NV

Slick, San Francisco's premier fetish ball, presents "OUCH!," an evening which will pay tribute to those who have mastered their discomfort for the pleasure of others. Be it pain or confinement, their work transcends the norm in its duration and/or extremity. Stormy Leather presents a "Fetish Nightmare." Molotov the Pain-Proof Man performs, along with the "No-Go Dancers." View the spectacle downstairs or from the balcony, or hide away in one of the four glass-enclosed VIP rooms. Appropriate fetish attire required. $20 advance, $25 day of show, advance tickets available at Stormy Leather, Dark Garden Corsetry, Madame & Mr. S Leather, and online at www.unspunrecords.com. 9pm-3am. 525 Howard St. (between 1st and 2nd Streets). Info line: 415-536-9424; www.clubslick.com

Plush Room

Faith Winthrop performs "A Month of Sundays," presenting the grande dame of song, who's began her singing career in Boston in 1953. $20 plus two-drink minimum. 7:30pm. The York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. Tix: 885-2800.

Sadie's Flying Elephant,

"K'vetsh," a queer open mike. Featuring Kari Edwards and Mark Ewert reading tales of starfucking in the literati world (Burroughs! Ginsberg! Very gay!). Tara Jepsen hosts with guest host Kendra Lubalin (Lynnee B. is out of town on book tour). $1 admission. New time: 7 pm sign-up; show at 7:30pm. 491 Potrero (corner of Mariposa). First Sunday of every month.

Amnesia

"Los Angeles Vs. San Francisco." Fighting for LA: Cunning Clint Catalyst, author of *Cottonmouth Kisses!* Conniving Craig Curtis, author of *Fabulous Hell!* Provocative Pleasant Gehman, author of *Escape from Houdini Mountain!* and Shameless Shauna Kenney, author of *I Was a Teenage Dominatrix!* Fighting for SF: Dastardly Dodie Bellamy, author of *Cunt-Ups!* Bombastic Cooper Lee Bombardier! Evil Erika Lopez, author of *Hoochie Mama: The Other White Meat!* and Avaricious Alvin Orloff, author of *I Married an Earthling!* with ringmaster Michelle Tea. $5 (come from "K'Vetch" and get a dollar off). 9pm. 853 Valencia St. (at 20th St.).



Slick, San Francisco's premier fetish ball, presents "OUCH!" See Sunday.

Mon 6

QComedy @ The Center

QComedy Showcase presents "Monday Night Gay Comedy," hosted by Blake, with Janis Lipton, Adam Sandel, Gretchen Rootes, Nick Leonard, Lisa Geduldig, Maureen Brownsey, and Bridget Schwartz. $8-$15 sliding. Doors open 7:30pm; show at 8pm. LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. Tix: 552-7200; www.harveymilk.org. Info: www.QComedy.com

Tue 7

Everett Middle School Auditorium

Supervisor Mark Leno hosts a "District 8 Town Hall Meeting" to gather input from residents on the 2002-03 city budget. City departmental representatives will be on hand to answer budget related questions and hear residents' priorities for the upcoming year. 7-8:30pm. 450 Church St. (btwn. 16th & 17th sts).

Intersection for the Arts

Jazz at Intersection presents The Marcus Shelby Jazz Orchestra. Shelby has realized his vision for a large ensemble jazz orchestra and almost exclusively composes for this 15-piece unit with five saxophonists, four trumpeters, three trombonists, bass, piano and drums. $12-$15 sliding. 8pm. 446 Valencia St. (btwn 15th & 16th). Tix/info: 626-3311.

SFPALM

Concert & conversation: SF Performing Arts Library & Museum presents renowned cellist Joan Jeanrenaud performing the West Coast premiere of SF composer Bob Ostertag's new work "Desert Boy on a Stick." Inspired by the sculptures of James Magee, the piece closely interweaves the cello as both instrument and prop with pre-recorded voice and spoken text by Magee. Slides of Magee's sculptures will be projected behind Jeanrenaud. $15 ($10 students/SFPALM members). 8pm. Veterans Bldg., 401 Van Ness Ave. (at McAllister), 4th floor. Tix/info: 255-4800; www.sfpalm.org

Club Eros

"Tantric Masturbation." Bring lube & towel. No charge for admission; donations for gay causes welcome. 7:30-9pm (door opens at 7pm, closes at 7:30pm or when room is full). Info/ground rules: Dick at 863-4154; www.tantricmasturbation.net



Pam Dunn and Yolanda S. Vierra Allen in *A Lady & A Woman* at Luna Sea. See Friday.

Wed 8

Noh Space

Theatre of Yugen presents "The Clay Play," by Libby Zilber and Theatre of Yugen company, in which Zen thought and Noh movement go together as a potter spins her wheel. An original work examining our battle with incessant inner commentary, and the larger issue of justifying an artist's path with the consciousness of human suffering. This production inaugurates the new collective artistic leadership of Theatre of Yugen under Libby Zilber, Jubilith Moore, and Lluis Valls. $18 ($13 students/seniors). 8pm. 2840 Mariposa St. (at Florida), Project Artaud Complex. Tix/info: 621-7978; www.theatreofyugen.org

ODC Theater

Back by popular demand: Lizz Roman & Dancers present "8 1/2 x 11, Playing in Stable Places," an hour-long evening of site-specific dance. Eleven of Roman's tough, talented dancers take over the entire building, tumbling, flipping, and flying through 8 1/2 locations. Live music by Talitha Jones (cello), Jill Justine Shaw and Ben Kessler. $20. 7:30pm. Also on Thu.-Sat., May 9-11, at 8pm & 9:30pm. 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). Tix/info: 863-9834; www.odctheater.org

Thu 9

Jon Sims Center for the Arts

LIT@JSC presents "An Evening of Readings by Storm Florez and Kristi Bruce." Originally from Albuquerque, Florez moved here five years ago only to find s/he is not really a butch rock star, but a fire-walking sensitive new age guy trapped in a lesbian's body. Tonight Storm will share her writings: mystical gender fuck porn, her life as a boy seeking truth through spiritual quests, and high school survival strategies for queer Catholics. Bruce moved here from Baton Rouge in 1998 to join the fledgling movement against the genital mutilation of intersex infants. She is co-founder of Dragracer Messenger Collective, and works at an independent bookshop in Berkeley. Her writings speak to the general absence of self-determination and abuses of power frequent in gender ambiguous contexts. $5-$10 sliding. 8pm. Q&A & reception follow. 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. & S. Van Ness). Tix/info: 554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

Roccapulco's

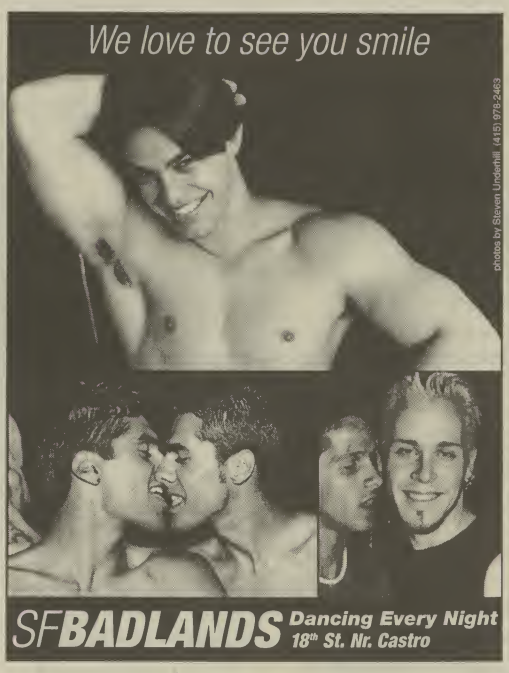
"Boyz Night Out," with DJs Alain de Corazon and Chili D serving hip hop, R&B, old school and Latin beats. Hosted by Mark Pastora. Happy hour 7-9pm with Latin buffet. $6 cover after 9pm. 3140 Mission St. Info: 820-1413.

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

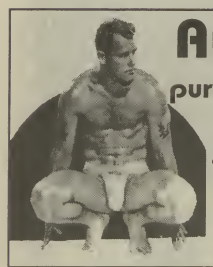
Mark Mardon
Out & About
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA
94103

Deadline is the Friday before issue date.



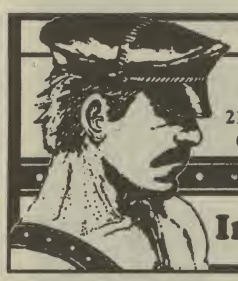




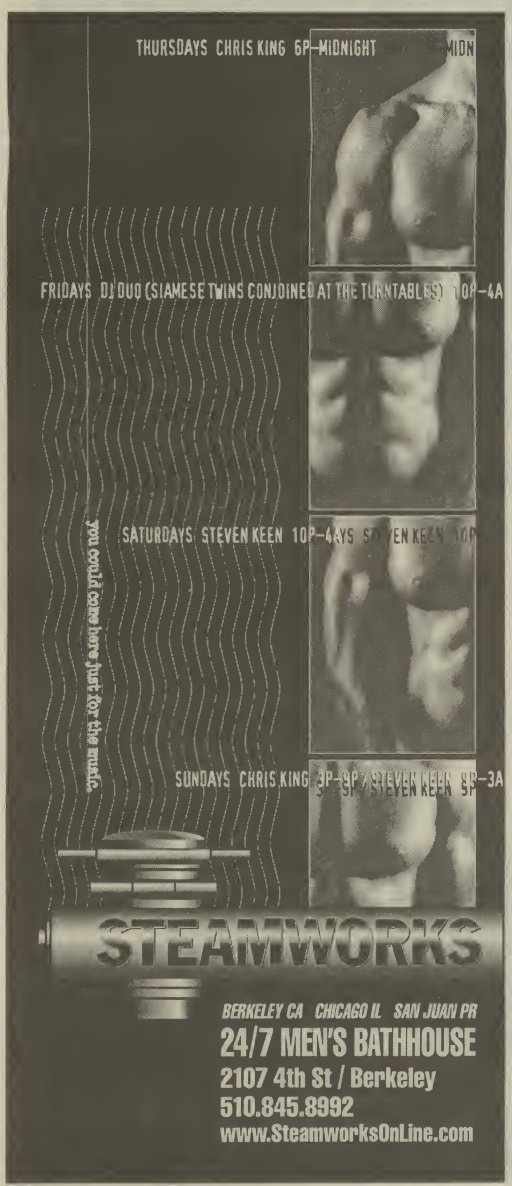


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Mister Marcus

IML 2001 Stefan Mueller (on floor) and IMs.L Joni Parri joined some 20 IML 2002 contenders for the ABW festivities in Washington last Saturday, April 27.

Bonanza for ABW 2002

Travel fund for winners: $30,000!

by Mister Marcus

The 2002 American Brotherhood Weekend, just concluded on April 26-28 in Washington, D.C., proved a bonanza for all concerned. The crowd went wild when Rich (RTB) Trevino of Boston was named American Leather Man, Tobin Britton of Portland, Oregon was named American Leather Woman, and Kip Davidson of Providence, Rhode Island was named American Leather Boy.

The highlights were many, as you'll learn, but one stands out — way out: The basket auction audience was in shock after one man made a successful bid of $15,300 for art portfolios submitted by American Leather Man contestant Nagrom Monceaux (Mr. Ocean State Leather 2002). The record-breaking basket auction total was awesome, enviable, unexpected and very welcome. No other leather contest to this date has come close to the amount raised, and the ABW 2002 winners will have $10,000 each — $30,000 total — to insure travel to the events they are obliged to attend.

Some 23 IML contenders attended ABW 2002, and delegates flew in from as far away as Canada and Europe. It was great to have IML Stefan Mueller, IMsL Joni Perri, and Ms. World Leather Annie Romano-Blas all together at the same venue, and a blast to toast former IMsL Jo Blas on the occasion of her 40th birthday. Washington Plaza Hotel manager Patrick Grady was voted "Favorite Leather Hotel Manager," and of course several of the IML 2002 guys "networked" intensely with each other in the hotel, and wouldn't you like to have the pick of those litters? The entire weekend was emcee'd by the one and only Frank Nowicki in a very professional manner.



It was great fun judging the nine boys, five women and nine men contestants along with Judy Tallwing McCarthy, Vern Stewart, "Mufasa" Tindell and outgoing ABW 2001 winners Jeffrey Cooper, Phyllis Darcy and "Pup" Mullikin. The tally master was Howard Fleming, and Tim Snyder again did a fabulous job interpreting.

The contestants came prepared and well versed in the leather lifestyle, and the interviews, fantasies and other aspects of the competition were as professional as it gets. (Just one bit of advice: IML 2002 contestants should bone up on the acronyms in our lifestyle, like, LIL, IMsL, ENDA, NCSF, and others. Using them properly makes life easier for everyone.)

When all the scoring was done for interviews, speeches, "hot wear" and great, imaginative fantasies, the judges endowed the titles on a trio of seasoned leather people. The great geographical divide does not seem problematic for them, and they are eager to explore the vast leather world as it exists in this country.

In the leather man category, the first runner-up was Jazz Thomas of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and the second runner-up was "Dart" of Long Beach, California. In the leather woman category, the first runner-up was Saliena Bowers of Dallas, Texas, and the second runner-up was Cindy Sapp of Kansas City, Missouri. For the boy title, the first runner-up was Brian Rochon of Kansas City, Missouri, and the second runner-up was Shawn Quish of Dallas, Texas.

ABW 2002 the weekend is history, but what a memorable experience it was for everyone who attended.

Meanwhile ...

In San Francisco last Thursday, April 25, the Mr. November 2003 bare chest contest at the Powerhouse had Lenny Broberg facilitat-

next page ▶

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, May 2

Final monthly contest tonight at the Powerhouse, 2100, when Mr. December 2003 will be chosen by judges Gavin Middleton, Rodger Jensen and others. Be there!

Friday, May 3

Boot mavens unite and gather at the Loading Dock from 2100 to closing. Gotta love those boots! Free boot blacking by "Driller".

Weekend, May 3-5

Constantines MC weekend run to Reno for "La Fiesta de Mayo" for a $120 donation. For info email: cvainc@slip.net, or call (650) 827-9617.

The Utica Tri's MC in Utica, NY celebrate their 167th anniversary all weekend with hedonism prevailing. Congratulations!

Saturday, May 4

San Franciscans MC celebrate their 32nd anniversary tonight at the Eagle. By invitation or club overlay from 2000-2300.

Happy 36th to the very lovely "Midori" and a celebration by invite in the Tonga Room of the Fairmont Hotel. Best wishes for many more, gorgeous!

Sunday, May 5

Cal Eagles MC "Cinco de Mayo" beer/soda bust at the Eagle, 1500-1800, for $8 with food. No mention of mariachis this time.

Tuesday, May 7

Bondage Buddies at 933 Harrison, doors open between 2100-2300, with a $10 fee. Call: 777-HEAD.

Wednesday, May 8

Golden Shower Buddies at 933 Harrison, doors 2000-2300. Walk in. Float out. Call 777-HEAD.

Friday, May 10

Silent Bid for Life at the DC Eagle to benefit the Scarlet Foundation and NCSF.

Weekend, May 10-12

Northeast Regional Sir/Boy contests at the Lure in NYC. Meet & Greet on Friday at the LGBT Center; Contest at the Roxy on Saturday and victory brunch at the Lure on Sunday.

Weekend, May 11 & 12

Cal Eagles MC weekend run to Grass Valley with all sorts of fun things planned. Call (650) 219-6461 or www.caleagles.org.

Thursday, May 16

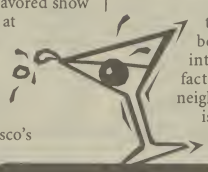
All 12 bare chest calendar winners compete for the cover spot on the 2003 calendar - at the Powerhouse tonight at 2100. Come and see the thrilling conclusion of the Bare Chest Calendar for next year!!!

Viva Cinco de Mayo!

by Sweet Lips

Well, no sooner am I back from Puerto Vallarta, rested and revved up to tend bar, than I get a fabulous surprise: the talented Rudolfo, the owner of the Adobe Cafe in Puerto Vallarta, and his buddy Mark are in town, and here at Club Rendez-Vous (1312 Polk St., at Bush.) I plan to hoist a toast or two in their honor. You'll want to meet them, too, so you and they are invited to drop in for tequila sunrises when I'm walking the plank during the early shift on Cinco de Mayo Sunday. Old buddy Dick Deemer won't be here to meet them, alas, as he left for his job at the Fire Island Pines on Fire Island, New York.

Speaking of Cinco de Mayo, the "Men of Exotica" will be doing a special Mexican-flavored show at Club R-V, starting at 7 p.m. Does that mean we get to break their piñatas?



On Saturday, May 4, San Francisco's premier Asian divas present "A Tropical Paradise" here at the club, benefiting the Asian Wellness Center. The divas in charge will be Suzie Wong, Empress 35, Tiger Lily, Grand Duchess 27, and China Silk, Grand Duchess 27. The party begins at 8 p.m., and the show happens at 9 p.m.

Yes, it seems as if Polk Street at last is coming back to the way it used to be, with great bars and interesting people. In fact, the talk of the neighborhood these days is that young cutie at the Lush Lounge, a singer and piano player Spencer Day, who packs the place on Tuesday nights. If you haven't been able to see him during the week, now you can catch his act on Saturday nights, too. ▼

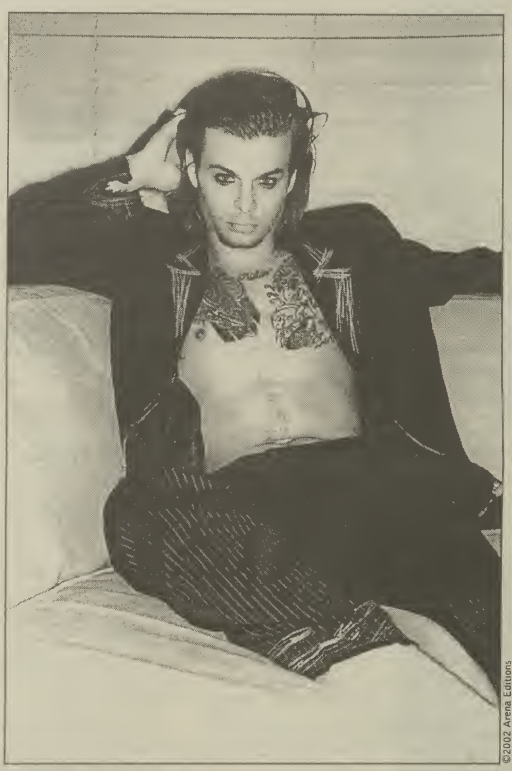
Greg Gorman

◀ Arts cover

textured paper, which holds the ink and revels in viscous midnights and multiple shades of dark chocolate. Its matte tones are not at all alarming, like the imperative and accosting grip of Mapplethorpe's stark contrasts, which offset his remove. It shows in the sexuality, which is graphic, but always placid and friendly. And it shows the model's calm disaffection.

On the surface, model Greg Knudsen is a world-class supermodel. When the clothes start dropping, there are initial signs of a deeper, darker identity. Yet, as you find yourself flipping the pages with escalating rapidity, it becomes apparent that beneath the surface, he's a world-class supermodel. He's got the model's runway stare down pat, and that's the unrevealing expression he wears when undressed. Strange, how much more of an expressive and personable side he exposes when not exposing himself. The florid and creative tattoos, the gangland bandanna and switchblade, the mascara-ringed eyes are only set dressing. No matter the many ways he displays a sizable and erect member, no matter even that he yields cum shots, a piss shot, and, across a double-page spread of multiple views, dildo insertions: It's all surface.

Where Gorman sees "a complete lack of pretension, a sardonic sense of humor," I see a dispassionate model who is rarely more than a mannequin, defusing sexuality and draining the photos of life. Even Weber, while eschewing graphic sexuality, drew more from an empty canvas of a model in his *Chop Suey* than Gorman can evince here. The photos in *Just Between Us* constantly lack the moment of knowing that is so consistently and sharply a feature in the work of others.


©2002 Arena Editions

Greg Gorman photographs model Greg Knudsen in all stages of undress.

The best claim for the book comes from scholar Peter Weiermair, who says that in these portraits, "the dialectical tension between intellect (face) and sensuality (genitals) has been resolved." Is that tension resolved, or simply becalmed? I expect the folks at *Vanity Fair* will hail *Just Between Us* as unprecedented sensation. Which, in their world, it is. And it'll blow their minds in Peoria. But in this gay neck of the woods, I hardly minded at all. ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

ing the proceedings. Five men jumped into the game with judges, Art Arciniega, Graylin Thornton, Ralph Petersen and James Scott Geras fielding the questions. When all was said and done, Michael Romero took the November 2003 spot, and Darren Milliken was the runner-up. The final competition for Mr. December 2003 takes place this Thursday, May 2nd at the Powerhouse. Be there!

Just a reminder that May 9 (a week from today!) is the deadline for the 2002 Leather/Levi Weekend taking place next August 9-11. The low price of $125 goes up to $150 until July 9 when it goes to $175. Don't linger! For first-timers to this event, the fee remains at $99 until July 9. For info: www.leatherlevi.org.

Lots of fun things are headed your way in the coming weeks, including IML 2002 in Chicago on Memorial Day Weekend; IMsL. 2002 in Omaha, July 26-28; Ms. World 2002 in Dallas Aug. 9-11; and the new International Leather/Boy (replacing Drummer) in October.

For your guidance and information, already six male contestants have lined up for the California Leather Man contest taking place in San Francisco on Dore Alley Weekend, and this year's edition includes California Leather Woman and Boy. It's going to be hot!

Until then, keep living, laughing, loving and volunteering. Just do it in leather! See you all next week! ▼


Mister Marcus

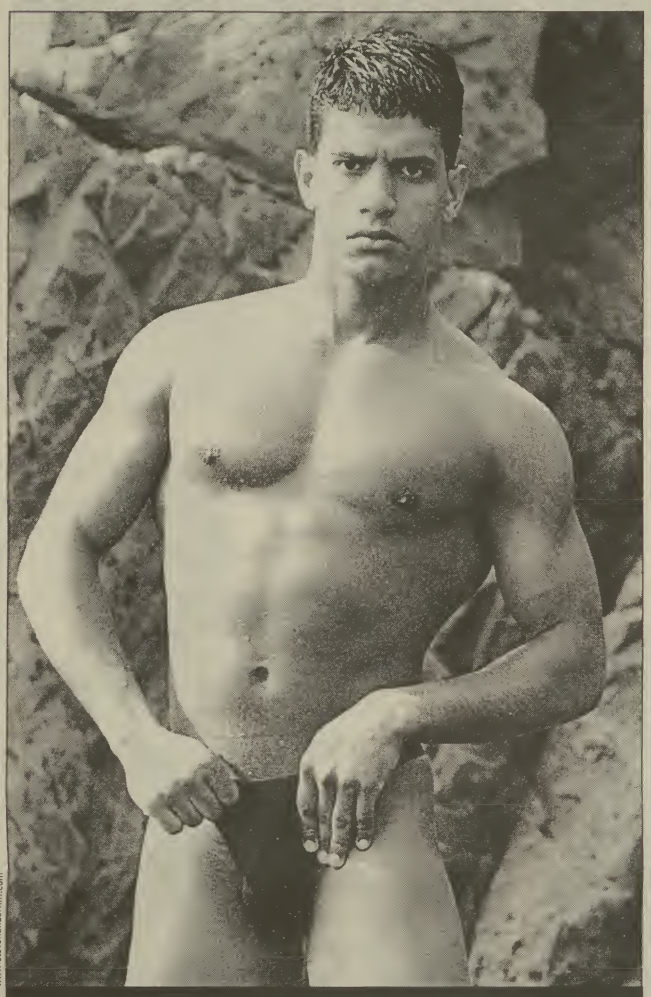
The American Brotherhood 2002 winners, from left, are Tobin Britton, American Leather Woman; Rich "RTB" Trevino, American Leather Man; and (kneeling), Kip Davidson, American Leather Boy 2002. They were chosen in Washington, DC last Sunday, April 28.

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PARTING GLANCES

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Play safe! Wear a condom. ☎ SAFE

"Bump!" Sunday Morning 4:30am
Guy from East Bay. From: Baton Rouge, LA. Give me a call. Enjoyed dancing with you. Sorry, had to go. Let's do it again. If interested give Mike a shout at: ☎ 71714

Waterfight At the PowerHouse 4/21
Your shirt without buttons, your enchanting circle of friends. You beckoned, I followed, but to no avail. I now desire and feel entitled to a true exchange of power. John ☎ 71732

"O Rich, Where Art Thou?"
We met in 1999. You: Banker, lived near Frederick Street. Glasses, Gold's Gym, short hair cut, born in GA. love to cook beef, asked if I had a girl friend? Love to meet again. Ken near USF. Please call. ☎ 71715

Clint, On Market Street
You're half-Indian, ex-Mormon, your brother's also in SF. This is Walter, I lost your phone #. You didn't tell me you were hospitalized New Year's Day. Please call back. ☎ 71716

Kevin-Boxes Of Macy's Luggage
Saturday April 20. That lady was in the way on Bart. I should have helped you carry your load to your blue jeep and taken you up on that ride. ☎ 71733

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

How About A Little Bump & Grind
GBM prof. top 50 seeking GWM bottom 48-60yrs for good hot sex on an ocassional or on going basis. Also open to some type of relationship but horny for now. Smk, drink, and aroma all good. Prefer you be somewhat stocky built, enjoy sexy underwear and nudity. No heavy beards. ☎ 71677

Seek Uncut Richmond District
W/cock for sucking. Be smooth, light hairy, clean shaven, not bald or pierced. Be nice easy going for w/husky goodlooking Construction worker with sucking fantasy, possible anal action. ☎ 71679

Need One Small Cock To Suck
Under 6" w/or Japan, China, Malaysia, S.E Asia, under 40 Thailand A+. May accept anal entry. Be smooth or little hair clean shaven a must long term relationship. ☎ 71680

Professional Afro-American Guy
Available for long-term relationship, has many qualities. Prefer mature guy between 60's to, 80 years old. Let's talk. ☎ 71717

Adam Seeking Another Adam
I am looking for my Adam race, age, doesn't matter. No married men. I'm not an Eve or Steve for kinky sex games, relationship. ☎ 71718

Come Out Of The Woods
Silver/blonde fox, 5'8", 150lbs, HIV+, seeks fox or bear over 50, HIV+. Very sociable, funny and romantic. Enjoys looking at headboards. N. Bay resident. ☎ 71719

GWM Looking For LTR
6'5", 160, 58 bld/blu top looking for GWM 40+ bottom romance/fun-Herb aroma+ call. ☎ 71734

"Ball Worshipper!"
Seeks a/w w/nice balls in loose low hanging sack for long slow sessions of kissing licking sucking fondling while I J/O both of us prefer uncut cock. ☎ 71735

Santa Rosa Native
SWM, 41, 5'10", 180#, redhair, ex-navy, owns mobilhome. Enjoys drumming, talk radio, the outdoors, & tennis. Seeks female. ☎ 71736

40 Asian Fil Need Soulmate
40's still good looking fil. Med built, height /weight proportional, fun, romantic, sexy seeking a GWM in his 40 for fun, romance, adventure and sex. ☎ 71738

Attractive GAM To Date
GAM goodlooking, cleancut boy next door. 30's, 5'8", slim with nice personality seeks similar goodlooking, masculine, cleancut GWM 40 or younger for friendship/dating. ☎ 71739

Masc Lonely Latin Wants Latin
36yo. 5'8", 152, good looking, Latin, under 36yo, slim smooth, nice personality, husky look, versatile, under 7" cock. N/S/N/D, sleeping over, single only. Long term relationship call now!! ☎ 71737

Latin Seeking Latin
I'm 36yrs. 5'8", 154 husky looks. Easygoing nice muscular body, looking 4 partner under 36yrs 5'6" or 5'8" smooth or little hair versatile slim. No drugs or heavy drinkers no fats no fems. Hope for a wonderful life together. ☎ 71720

GWM Btm HIV-
Seeks top bld/blu med no smoke, non-drinker 38-50 years old. ☎ 71678

Smart, Skinny, Submissive?
Berkeley top, 32, 6'3", 195lbs, bl/bl, 7"cut, handsome, educated, intelligent, passionate, seeks boyish White or Asian for erotic education. Beginners welcome. Gentle to rough. Limits respected- then expanded. ☎ 71740

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"Hungry Mouth Wanted!"
Italian, 50, 5'7", 160lbs, neg., 7.5x5", low hangers, seeks aggressive cocksucker with lots of stamina for long sessions. Aroma A+. ☎ 71681

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Kick back enjoy free beer xxxvideos and oral service from masculine mature WM. You an Asian or WM cut "6" or more. I'm inexperienced but quick learner. No reciprocation. ☎ 71682

Looking For Horny Senior Citizen
Goodlooking GAM 28, like to watch senior citizen j/o, married is ok. Feel your hot cum splatter on my nice body. Clean shaven only. ☎ 71683

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Strong-handed masculine lean WM 43 provides expert full body experience for trim tight-bodied masculine guys 18 to 45. Any race, smooth or hairy. ☎ 71684

Oral Expert Seeks Hung Guys
If you want expert oral service call me. The bigger the better. We can also watch some excellent videos. ☎ 71685

"Love to Kiss?" I Do!
Cute GWM, 30, 6', 180#, very oral, loves foreplay, sucking cock, rimming. Seeking gay man or couple, 25-45, in shape, any race, for hot times. ☎ 71687

Let's Party!
I'm looking for guys who like three or four ways, or just kick back and jerk-off watching good videos, and have a real fun time. ☎ 71688

Mulatto Guy
Looking for White, Hispanic, and others who are good looking or hung for party, watch videos, jack-off, etc. Call me. ☎ 71689

Jack-Off Buddies Wanted
I'm seeking guys who are fun, hung and maybe fairly good looking, for jack-off suck and do other things. ☎ 71690

Spank Your Butt
Goodlooking topman, 37, 5'11", 170#, works out. Seeks well-built bottom with firm, round butt spanking. Into role-playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 71691

Blk Top Sks Total Bttm Boy
Total masculine Blk top, 6'1", 225 37 HIV-. Sks total submissive bttm, prefer fem types. Be clean shaven and smooth, HIV-. Let's play. ☎ 71721

BM Seeking New Friends
35y/o BM, 5'9" 185 HIV-neg is seeking GM between 24-40y/o in SF or East Bay for friendship, social activities or casual dating. Let's talk. ☎ 71722

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We're the best in and out of bed! I'm hot, hung,thick, hairyish, cut, 200#, 6'63y/o, negative, versatile, NS/ND. Luv music, arts, shows. Play now. Weekends away this summer. ☎ 71723

One Good Sub Boy
Well built, very submissive, eager 2 please, very oral sks, very demanding aggressive top. Me, kneeling waiting to please you, very verbal, in charge, ready to abuse me. ☎ 71724

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Mature GWM photographer seeks in-shape gay White, Asian or Hispanic men, 35 to 60, for artistic, nude, erotic photos. Be sensual and passionate! ☎ 71725

Hairy Top Stud
Me: 39, 170#, 5'9", buzzcut, stache, muscular hairy chest, 8" cut, poz, aggressive, passionate total top; You: GWM, attractive, under 45, slutty nasty bottomboy, eager to please horny daddy. ☎ 71726

Santa Rosa Action
W/M, 44, 6' 245# offers all over French action for clean W/M's. Convenient location for a nooner, anytimer- no recip expected. ☎ 71727

Hung GWM, 8"Cut 40 Wants
Hot HIV-, dark skinned men with big, thick, cut and uncut dick for 69, & fucks, either way, your place or mine. ☎ 71728

White Guys Wanted
Slutty horny GAM hot 4 sex ISO GWM. Let me lick and taste you all over. I'm an excellent tight squeezing receiver. Let's get together and have fun. ☎ 71729

Masculine Bottom Needs Horse
Gdlking, masculine dude, 5'10", aub/grn, age 35 discreet, needs horse hung for ongoing action. Into total service, no-nonsense hook ups. Hiv+ yeah! ☎ 71741

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You'd rather watch Ufc than Qaf; rather fist•fight than dance; shave your head, not your pecs; fuck and get fucked hard and rough. Tough, rugged, hairy, skinhead leatherman wants you. ☎ 71742

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Hairless Asian tite hole to fuck I.B. Under 25 and ready to take it. ☎ 71743

Italian Guys I Am Honestly
Looking for Italian guys who are attractive or hung for a relationship to party or just to have fun. ☎ 71745

Hung Hispanic Guys Needed
I'm looking for Hispanic guys who are hung 8 or 9 or 10 inches or more, to party, watch videos, suck j.o., etc. ☎ 71744

Gentle Mature Men
WLM 46, 6', 165lbs. ISO gentle senior men who enjoy lots of sensual oral attention & affection. Facial hair, non-buffed A+, but all welcome. Threesomes some kink ok but no gay scene or drugs. ☎ 71746

Black/White X-Rated Fun
GWM 49, 5'11" 180 masculine, fit, well hung and very sexual seeks Black males for videos, j.o. and nude beaches. Palo Alto area. ☎ 71747

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"Do You Have A Rim Seat?"
Want a very oral body builder dad under it, providing prolonged french kissing sessions. ☎ 71692

Man W/ Toe Ring Loves Barefeet
Lifelong excitement looking at & fantasizing about men's barefeet. Gdlkng East Bay GWM, 5'9", trim, tan, HIV-, loves reciprocal kissing, licking, massaging barefeet & sensual/safe all over body play. ☎ 71693

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Masochistic Bottom
Submissive bottom boy, 34, 5'10", bl/bl, 160, needs strict and severe discipline, training and control. Please take me to your woodshed, Sir. Have, canes, paddles, straps, and whips. ☎ 71749

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Small Asian Hairless Butt Wanted
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Attractive GWM mid 30's seeks friendship with GAM late 30's early 40's. Open to new ideas and activities. Favorites: restaurants, movies, music performances, museum/galleries shows, work-out and parks. ☎ 71731

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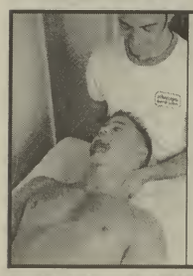
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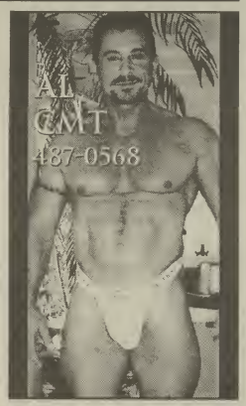
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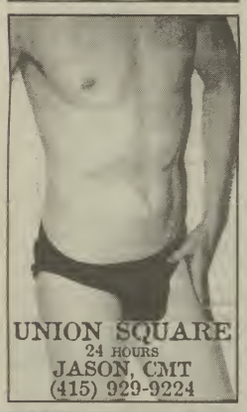
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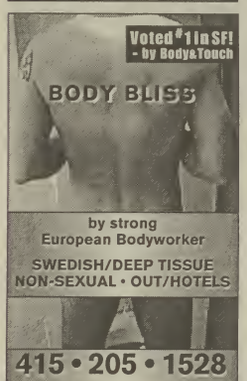


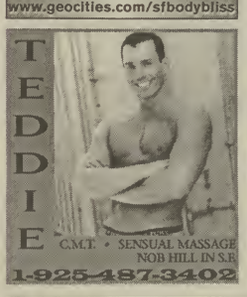
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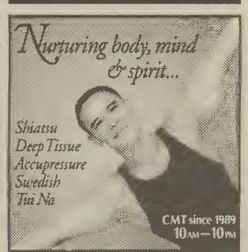
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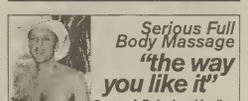
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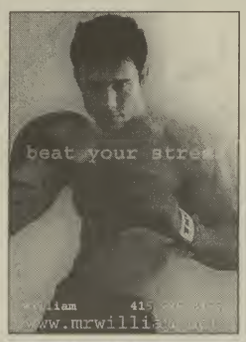
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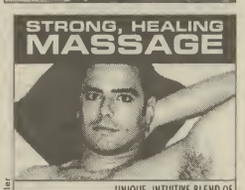
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plus full body massage by strong, Buff,goodlkg,sexy,nude masseur. Shower avail.(In Only)@ 244-9924
E20

San Jose Massage & Fantasy with a CMT Bearman.Airport area. 408-605-1687
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Sexy Blonde will rubUdown - Jason
HOT EURO BOY 210-1526
E18

NOB HILL CMT 24
Cute blond German provides deep tissue massage 24 hours. Downtown
Jason • (415) 929-9224
E19

Massage by Asian Man in Santa Clara. In $50, Out $70. 408-551-0767 - 408-499-2486
E19

Handsome Italian Jock 6',175 Lbs, 8" tool,big balls,great chest, sensual massage plus more!!! Into swimming, bicycling and Gym. 9am-11pm
John • (510) 658-2437
E18

Good Strong Affordable Massage Swedish • Deep Tissue • Shiatsu Only $35 an Hour. • (415) 820-3202
E19

Buff, 46, nurturing to revitalizing massage, nr dwtn,pkng $50 596-3377
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IN SONOMA COUNTY CALL JOE & FEEL GREAT!
For a firm & satisfying hands-on experience. Your place or mine in Petaluma • Call (707) 766-8269
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EAST BAY ASIAN
Slow sensuous nude massage by CMT 40 y/o, 5'1", 113 Lbs. Out Only.
Bill • 510-444-6950 • $60
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EXCELLENT MASSAGE
Swedish/Therapeutic/Erotic/ or w/hypno/$75/90 min or $100 for 2 hour meltdown mini-vacation!! Tall lean masseur/strong hands
Heron Saline, CMT. 415/706-9740
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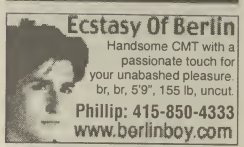
MY FULL ATTENTION
Healing/Relaxing/Erotic Nude Full Body Massage w/friendly exp, slender, smooth Latin Bi-Guy $60 per hr. In/Out. in SF. 860-1297
E18

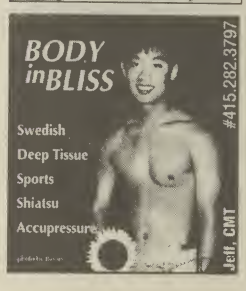
Relax Release enjoy a sensual full body massage by 38 CMT 75 min $50 Great hands from Stan 641-8221
E21

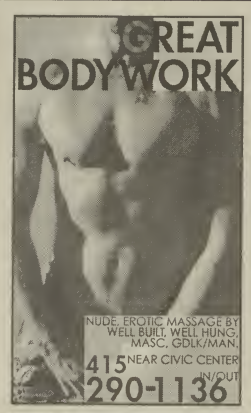
PERSONALS

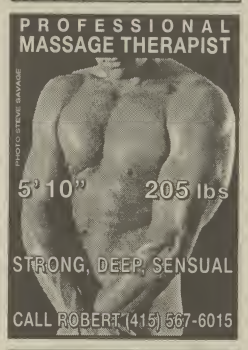
MASSAGE





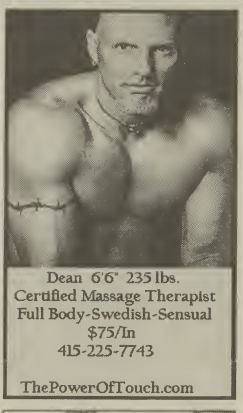


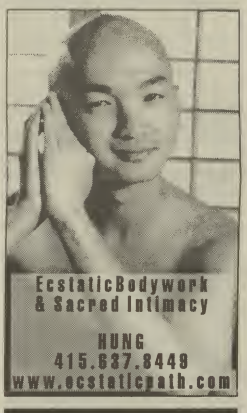




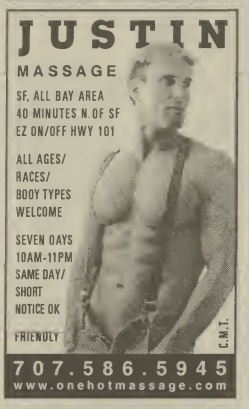










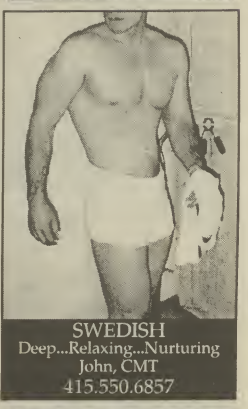






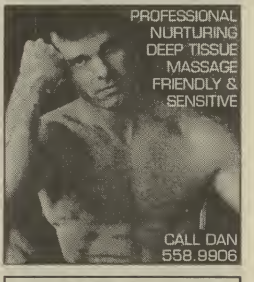
















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To rub your troubles away with a World-Class deep tissue massge. In/Out. New incall rate $100!! Maestro Randy • (510) 757-9522. E18

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Italian 5'9 smooth Toned Body
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Best massage you've ever had!
Parking/SOMA/$50-----596-3377 E19

EVERY BODYWORKS
25 year old therapist trained in Swedish, relaxation. Friendly and effective massage.
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Firm, fullbody erotic massage for fit,trim men. Muscular, warm CMT 5'6"/145#30"w,gymbody. Nights/wkends. 297-0021,www.rourywork.net E18

HOT HINDI HEALER
Through the secret sensual art of tantra. Release your sexual blocks and open yourself up to receiving more pleasure by the skillful hands of a 21 yo tall exotic looking masseur. Call Krishna (858) 382-1609. Lic# 19844 E18

CMT dedicated w truely gifted hands muscular w strong yet sensual touch 25yrs. exp. Castro ez parking photos on sfgaymassage.com Chip 626 4093 E21

Mexican Latino
5'9" 165 goodlooking 26 yo
Out only. Alex, 510-393-4043 E18

CONCORD CONNECTION
In stressful & tense times, I assist in comforting & relaxing your body, mind & spirit by my erotic touch and healing energy
Call Raul at 925-689-2404
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ENEMAS PLUS
Given to Hot Boys. Young, Smooth & Athletic. 18-28. Free to Hot Jocks 11/11, 7 days. Eric (415) 409-7070 E18

CUTE 30 SPANISH GUY!
Great nude massage/ 290 2041/ $50. E19

THE BEST YOU'VE EVER HAD
9 out of 10x-boyfriends agree I know how to rub!
Extremely relaxing intuitive and well trained massage for sore bodies call Steve
415 606 2044 Out only $60 1 hour E20

EROTIC MASSAGE
By hot White boy, 31yrs, 6'1", 170 lbs, handsome. Deep, hard and sensual. Call Josh 415-572-3897. E18

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Relaxing full body massage by LUCAS 415-929-1577 E19

Sensual Massage
By handsome boy Mexican 5'9",165 lbs 28yo. Page me Osvaldo 414-4264 E18

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HEART-FELT MASSAGE
Mike, CMT $40/hour 510-436-3305 E21

GREAT HANDS MASSAGE
Tall bld/red Nebraska farm boy relocated to Cal. Ready to give great massage- Out only $75/Hour. 408-569-3891. Anytime E18

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Swedish/Trager/deep tissue
Sensual-nuturing-replenishing
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Eastbay comfort warmth & more sensual massage by nude masseur Bob $35/hr (510) 843 4408 E18

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BY
Goodlooking, Friendly, Masculine, Discreet, South American Latino
RAUL 863-4236
Moving to New York Soon!

Massage n play with handsome hung Italian. Hungry hole n deep throat for in shape tops n bottoms. Erotic ass n ball shave available 4 hot fun. David 305-5268 E19

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Let a handsome, well-built & experienced CMT stud knead your swollen muscles and relieve your deep, throbbing aches. 207-9045 E18

Relaxing Swedish Massage by Rob. 36, 6'2", 200, handsome. $55hr/in, Eves & Weekends (415) 845-4807 E21

26yo 6', 180lbs Latin good looks
GURR! I'LL LET
the tiger out of your tank
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Great deep tissue massage by:
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23, 5'8", 140#, friendly; 24hrs
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MASSAGE BY LATINO
Get a real massage by a gm friendly handsome smooth call Adolfo at 553 6348 45 out E18

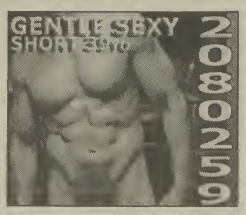
A MAN'S TOTAL FULL BODY RUB-DOWN BY HANDSOME DUDE CALL DAVID 650-938-3728 E21

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plus full body massage by strong, Buff,goodlkg,sexy,nude masseur. Shower avail.(In Only)@ 244-9924 E20

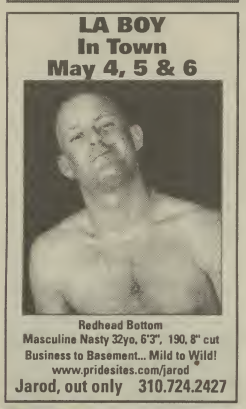
SEXY ASIAN
$60 Jim 269-5707 E19

MODEL/ESCORTS

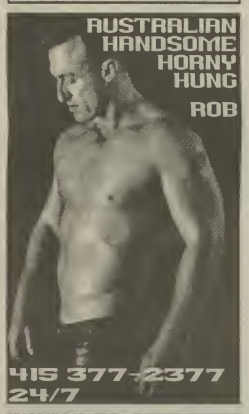






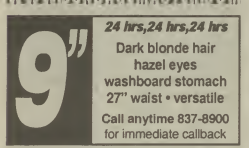




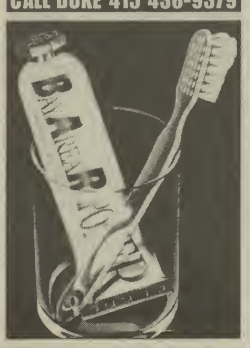












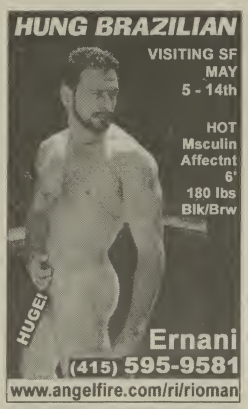


Goodlooking, 6'1", 165 Lbs
ASIAN TOP
$80/$100 * JIM 269-5707
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Mike, 37, 5'10", 200#, Bl/Blu
Clean-cut, Muscle Hunk
In/Out $100 (415) 863-8932
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26 GWM 6' 190lbs 32wst Big Legs
7" cut Hot BubbleButt Cleancut
Masculine Versatile In/Out 24/7
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ADORABLE STUDENT
24y 5'5", 125# slim/friendly/fun
Very passionate, no rush, Asian
partner avail. Nick 922-9864
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21, NEW IN TOWN!
5'9",135#, 6"c, Thin Swimmer's Build, Great Legs & Ass, Cute, Boyish & Playful. In-Out, Versatile/Open Minded. 24/7. Nick: 415-414-4200.
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Handsome good body 5'11", 160 lbs
Sexy $80/in, 100/out David 297-6568
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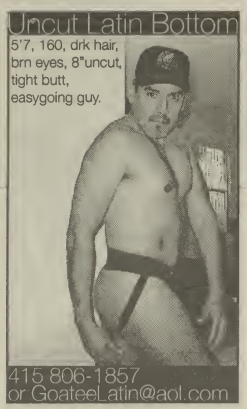
Domint*oral/top*kicks/back for service
10"X6*UNCUT
very verbal*role play*w/s*fat tool
goodlooking*in or out*847-3585 *24hrs*
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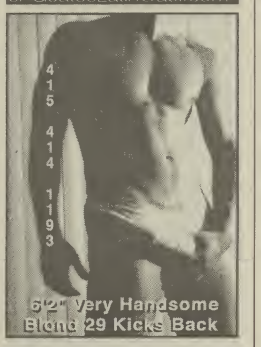
LEATHER TOP!
Light to heavy sensual S/M
handsome experienced w/dungeon
TOM 415-487-1296
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Get Naked/Relax/Hug/Release/
Oral/8" Nudist/346-4966/Ken/$60
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B&D/S&M top takes you where you need to go. Nice guy with experience and skill. Into most scenes. Beginners to extreme. Out only. Evenings/ Weekends. 415/356-9820
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6-1, 180#, muscular, 9inch cut, 29yrs, Top call Steve 415-595-3064
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FOOT FETISH
etc.
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34 5'8" 150# furry toned tattooed
FIST MASTER
Jeff 415-215-8396 Out only
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Frat Boy Hunk
Solid Muscular Pecs, Abs & Legs
Deep throat and young jock ass.
5'9", 155#, 30"w, 8"246-4460
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BB bottom in 60 out Bay Area
10am 11pm 415 459 3488
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Satisfied by sweet and cute guy 35yrs. 5'10",160# 8 inches, cut. Call Andy 246-5625
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HI! I'M JOE!
I'm a friendly, affectionate, passionate bottom. I can fulfill your fantasies. (415) 242-4230.
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Hndsm Italian top hung 10x7
CHOKE ON THIS!
Tight lean hairy bod 6'160# 35 gentle strength & arousing edge in/out entire Bay Area call 24/7 415-256-6743 TomBuStonexxx@aol
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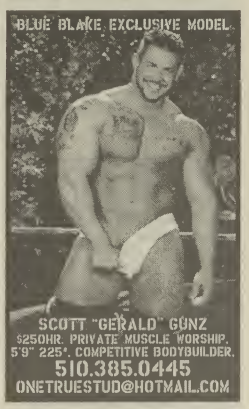
Big balls 7.5" strong legs $40
South Bay mature fit loves 2B
orally serviced 408-629-2670 out only
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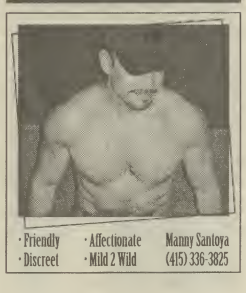
HOT & SEXY
Handsome well endowed, great body, bedroom eyes, passionate, affectionate, smart & friendly will make you very happy & content 207 6117
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HORNY FRIENDLY DUDE
26, 5'6", 135#, lean, solid
great tool. Hot and juicy.
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Tanned/toned/clean & fun! Eve&weeknd
Versatile out calls #888-563-6162
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If you're tired of selfish, amature, ugly tops. Call Conrad, 33yrs/ 5'10" 7" 170# lean, muscular, beautiful. 11 1/2 hung/thick. (510) 684•6196
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*Handsome*Masculine*Hung*Dude*
KICKS BACK FOR YOU!
*5'11"*175*Br/Gr*30's*8"Cut*
Soma—Days Ok—$75/In*Randy—309-1032
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AMERASN BTM BOY
facelink.com/keepitreal
cute 23/5'6"/125 Jay 415-519-7546
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FIST FIST FIST
Hot Italian will top you with my fist. call Chris 929-1764
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Will take you deep-Release your beast. Sexy white 30 year old 5'7" red head 150# discreet
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35 y/o x-handsome guy 6' 225# stud w/
THICK MUSCLES SOLID MAN'S BODY
Role play cool visa/mc 415 828 0748
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21, NASTY 5-10 165LB
Hot 8" (510) 847 2931
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CONFIDENT TOP
Handsome, Lean, Muscular
Defined, Hot Hairy Chest
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Call Chris 929-1764. In/Out
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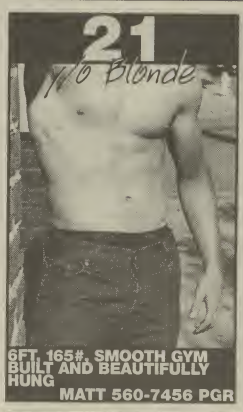
Massage, body play, etc. by gd. lkng., smooth, athletic Asian. all ages/weights (510) 841-8181
E18

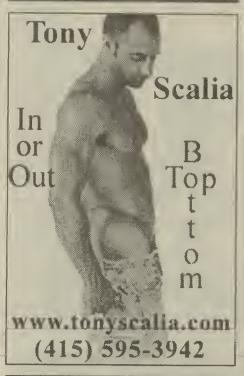
MODEL/ESCORTS

S/M SENSUALITY
–long, & slow– my specialty.
6'2", 185, strong, gymtoned
master into all aspects &
degrees of leatherplay.
S/M, B&D, FF, WS, raunch.
Lord 431-0959



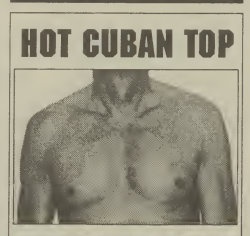
HOT MOUTH
Jeff
Hungry Bottom Boy
255-0731 In/Out
TOTAL WORSHIP





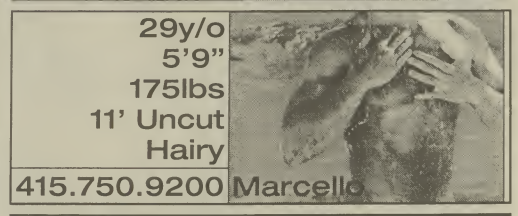






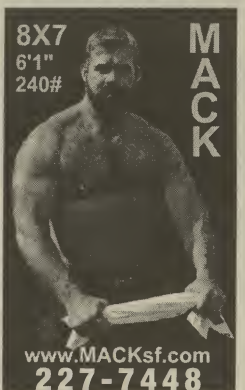
















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Butt munchers welcum. Manny. 336-3825 E18

MONSTER BALLS!
Italian/Irish w/smoldering good
looks, lean, lanky, sexy, 6'1"180#
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Smooth muscular build uninhibited
HORSEHUNG LATIN
Robert 415-414-0461 5'8"155# blk/ brn E19

X-TALL BLK TOP STUD
6'6", 230lb 36yo smooth musc bld
X-HANDSOME HUNG BIG
True 10x7 hungry deep tool
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skilled dominant Sir. Beginners to ad-
vanced, slave and Master training
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28y/o slender, good shape be serious
In/out call travel 415 414•0731 E18

HOT BLOND BOTTOM MAN
Hip fit smart present & sexxxy!
6'3", 180# athletic & muscular w/8"
long legs & round smooth butt
mild to wild friendly and fun
$125 In/up 415/706-9740 for you! E19

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•SERVING ALL BAY AREA•
Italian 6'2", 200lbs 35 yo, thick fat
tool, hung 9x6. Smooth and muscular.
Also available for sensual massage.
Serving SF and all Bay Area.
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Affectionate, sexy, 24, 142#, 5'8"
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Handsome muscular hung Italian
Hungry hole n deep throat for
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Beefy, masc guy with big tool in
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Athletic, Muscular, Striking,
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SENSUAL THAI GUY
24y 5'8" lean/smooth/cute
uncut vers mild2wild very fun
Cute partner avail. 922-9864 E18

Last chance 'til this fall!
Hot, hung, horny Ital. top
Angelo 415-414-4664 Out only E19

10"x6"cut 6'6" 220 br/bl 45yo
XTRA HUNG DAD
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Goodlooking 120/hr. E18

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Very Handsome 5'9", 190lbs of
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Muscle body short brn hair green
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BB, 5'11", 190lbs. 8 1/2 uncut thick
vers also hot 37yo 5'8", 190lbs. Italian
muscle man vers 415•346•1234 E18

5'11"x190 sxy, smooth, brunette hot
HOT BB BOTTOM
Call- Drew 302-6768 Out call only E18

Hot Italian boy 5'8", 140 25 y/o
Hairy masc. vers. Erin 882-7388 E19

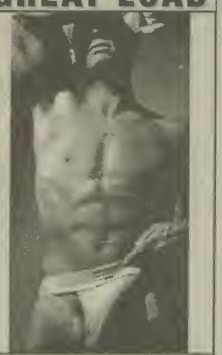
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Good looking sexy ebony guy
friendly & passionate 5'10"
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ADVERTEASE
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HONEST 9" THICK CUT LARGE SMOOTH LOW HANGERS. MUSCULAR LEAN GYM BODY. BIG LOAD WHEREVER YOU NEED IT MOST. BLONDE, 31YRS, 5'11", 170#. XLNT PERFORMER. TOTALLY ACCURATE AD. TOP STUD. CALL IAN-$150 OUT-CALLS
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23, 5'8", 140#, millitary buzz cut. Total top *9x6 real inches *Marco 24hrs out @ 415 305-2474
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SMOOTH, CUTE HUNG 8"
24YR.OLD TRAPED IN AN 18YR OLD BODY LOTS OF FUN 415 414 5264
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200lb tatooed Latin top man In shape and aggressive 9+" Mike 415 210-0349
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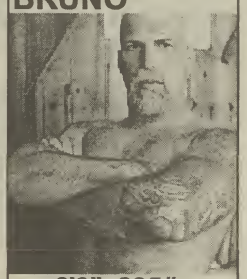
HOT • HUNG • HORNY



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Gorgeous Latin American boy 5'8" 145# of ripped muscle very hot classy intelligent 415 845 9263
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For deep throat expert and more! Any taker?? I'm Didier: 39yo, 145#, 5'4"$80. Need info? Call me; 415-377 1820. "Pour votre plaisir!"
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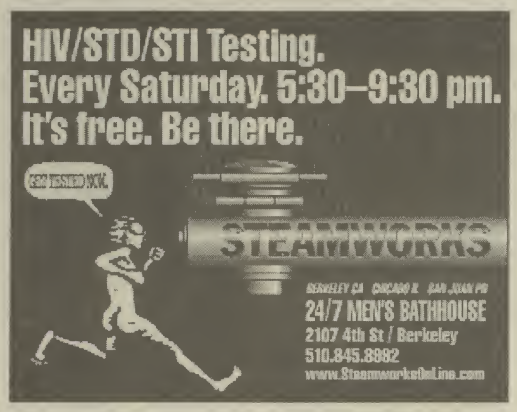
HOT SALSA
Slender, hung, smooth, any area. Travel available 415-789-8094
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!BLACK ADONIS!
24yo beautiful top 10"x6" 6' & 165# toned swimmers build
JASON 415 414-2984
E19

ADRIAN 21 YO
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PEOPLE

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39-02

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W Male 54 yrs,slim,hung,uncut,HIV-seeks W Male HIV-, fit, 50+yrs for mutual oral. 415-731-0302 Eves after 5PM
E19

Balls stretched while you moan. 665-4825
E18

GWM,40,6',195#,tatoos,HIV-,9"cut wants horny cut & uncut Latin, Black & White Tops 25-55•Gary 431-1437•
E19

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5'10" heavy 240, love to party curious about toys and FF after 8pm (408) 718-0773

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Your spiritual brother: Soma/ old Folsom St. background: Toolbox, Ambush, Barracks, Hot House; 63 yo Trim, 6 ft, 157 lbs, healthy HIV Poz, intelligent, emotionally open and available, active in community, (both gay and larger SF); sexually experienced and adventurous is seeking similar GWM for playful times together. Reply, jkc1730@aol.com

E18

YOUR INTIMATE PICTURES

Why not? Give yourself a gift. Uses: Internet, intimate friends, lovers, etc. Professional, experienced photographer. Studi, Digital and 35mm film. Scanned. 415 759-0348 • Lorenzo

E18

MAMA'S FAMILY PEOPLE:

We are looking for any family members that would like to entertain at Mama's 60th birthday party on June 2nd @ Daddy's Bar. Talented singers, lip synchers, stand-up or lay-down comedians, let me know. Email me at SFLeatherBoy01@aol.com. Today!

E20

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39-02

Good Head in Sonoma County. Call Days 707-823-3895

E23

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